









## Victim's father refuses to drop charges against accused teen killer

By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — The father of 30-year-old Jamal Turk, who was killed in a grizzly murder that involved an entire family last June, Monday refused to drop charges against defendant Sa'ed Qashash in a tearful testimony at the Criminal Court.

Qashash, who faces 12 counts of premeditated murder, confessed to killing his mother, father, other family members and his school friend Atta Sha'lan, on June 10, because they were harassing him about his academic performance.

Mohammad Abdul Hamid Turk, 68, told the court that he learned of the murder of his son, his daughter-in-law Insaif, 27, and his grandchildren Hala, two, and Zaid, three, from the newspapers.

When asked by the court if he wished to drop charges, Turk said no and started weeping.

Before leaving the court room, Turk looked at Qashash, who was standing behind bars wearing a white and red keffiyeh, and told him, "May God take revenge on you."

Qashash showed no remorse.

Last week, both the defendant's sister and Atta's father also refused to drop charges against the defendant.

If convicted, Qashash could face the death penalty.

Other victims in the June 10 mass murder included Qashash's mother Tharayyah, 50, his father Amin, 57, his sisters Karimah, 25, Mirvat, 17, and Wafa, nine, as well as his brothers Mohammad, 30, and

Mustafa, 17.

Last week, Qashash pleaded not guilty and declared he was mentally competent to stand trial after his court-appointed lawyer attempted to refer him to psychiatrists.

According to the prosecution charge sheet, the suspect allegedly lured the victims one after the other to the basement of the family's house in the Biryat village south of Amman, and shot each of them while they had their backs to him, then piled their bodies and sealed the basement doors with bricks and cement.

The court tribunal, presided over by Judge Mohammad Ajameh and including Mifteh Mubaidin and Issa Hamdan, set the next session for Sept. 27 to hear more prosecution witnesses.

## 'Culture of shame' an overrated cause of unemployment — study

By Ghali Alul

AMMAN — The "culture of shame" allegedly preventing many Jordanians from taking up menial jobs is not a major cause of rising unemployment, participants at the National Unemployment Conference agreed on Monday.

Previous governments, especially that of former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, often attributed the failure of Jordanians to engage in low-paid and menial jobs such as garbage collection, sanitary operations and domestic help to a social phenomenon that has become known as the culture of shame.

But participants at the three-day seminar, which opened on Sunday, said the absence of a minimum wage and job incentives such as social security and health insurance have forced many to shun these professions.

In addition, many job-seekers felt their university specialisation did not match what was offered in the market.

"Less than one per cent of unemployment is a result of some Jordanians' refusal to take up menial jobs," Hashemite University Professor Mohammad Odatat told the conference. "This percentage does not justify all the noise that we hear about shame culture and its impact on unemployment in Jordan," he said.

"There are many other factors that prevent Jordanians from working, such as low salaries, lack of job security as well as their failure to find jobs in line with their university specialisation," he said in a study on reasons preventing

Jordanians from accepting some jobs.

The study found that only 25 per cent of unemployed Jordanians said they would not take up any of the jobs listed by the survey because they considered them inferior.

The list of jobs included working in bakeries, hotel housekeeping, waiters/waitresses, carpenters, electricians, sanitary staff, barbers, animal breeders, and craftsmen.

Odatat said women formed 51 per cent of the 25 per cent who refused to take up any of the jobs listed because they were not in line with their specialisation, he added. "Hence, should we not justify their refusal?" Odatat asked.

His study called for replacing foreign workers with local unemployed labourers on the grounds that most of those interviewed showed willingness to take up jobs held by the foreign workforce.

"Since more than one-third of foreign workers have craft occupations, we could replace them with unemployed Jordanians wanting to take similar jobs after providing them with the necessary training," Odatat said.

The conference is being held amid rising demands by the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions to crack down on the more than 300,000 foreign workers, many operating illegally in the country.

"If the Labour Ministry has information that more than

## Conference participants warn globalisation may increase country's unemployment

By Mohammad Ben Hussein

AMMAN — Participants at the National Unemployment Conference Monday warned that globalisation may force local manufacturers out of business and leave many Jordanians jobless.

"With economic globalisation, local investors will face a severe challenge in raising the quality of their products to international standards and increasing productivity, or they will have to close down," Abdul Nour Habaibe of the Amman Chamber of Industry said. "This would cause many Jordanians to lose their jobs."

Jordan has signed an association agreement with the European Union with the aim of establishing free trade by the year 2010.

Jordan is also engaged in negotiations to accede to the World Trade Organisation. The country hopes to join next year.

"Globalisation will invade our markets and destroy Jordan's economy, and mostly its industries," said Nabil Shari, chairman of the meeting and former minister

of information.

Habaibe said the international community should increase its contributions to assist Jordan in its efforts to increase the competitiveness of its industrial sector, which employs the majority of the local workforce.

"Jordanian workers constitute up to 90 per cent of the working force in this sector, which needs more workers than any other sector," said one participant.

Turning to the Labour Law, the vice president of the General Federation of Trade Unions, Fathallah Emrani, presented a paper pressing for a minimum wage and for introducing changes to some parts of the law to help improve working conditions.

Emrani also pushed for amendments to introduce clearer interpretations to ambiguities in article 31 of the Labour Law, which set conditions under which workers can be dismissed.

According to article 31, employers can fire employees on an open contract or suspend their contracts

under certain conditions, such as financial and technical problems.

"The government should put tougher controls on arbitrary dismissals, and employers should consult with the Ministry of Labour and the federation before taking any step," he said.

Emrani also called for a minimum wage to help curb unemployment, officially estimated at 15 per cent and independently at 27 per cent.

Most participants at the session agreed that a minimum wage would attract more unemployed Jordanians to a market saturated with foreign workers, who make up 22 per cent of Jordan's workforce and accept very low salaries with little or no benefits such as health insurance and social security.

However, an official of the Ministry of Labour said the ministry has already introduced a minimum wage draft law to the Cabinet for discussion.

Participants also called for establishing an unemployment insurance fund to help persons seeking jobs.

and salaries to the ministry.

Such information, he added, would allow the ministry to monitor employers' behaviour in terms of offering fair salaries and providing suitable working conditions and hours.

Odatat urged the government to address the factors preventing unemployed Jordanians from working. He said the government should set minimum wages to lure local labourers, and organise and activate the labour market by providing more information on available job opportunities. Again, he said, data of this sort would lower unemployment rates caused by market fluctuations.

## Poll finding dissatisfaction with House's performance raises researchers' doubts

By Francesca Ciriaci

AMMAN — At a time when deputies say they will grant the government a six-month trial period before assessing the effectiveness of its policies, their own constituencies do not appear as munificent towards them, at least according to a recent opinion poll conducted by an Arabic daily.

The poll, which independent statisticians warn should be taken with a grain of salt, found that 67 per cent of Jordanians gave a thumbs down to the performance of the Lower House during the first year of its term.

According to Al Arab Al Yawm, which conducted the poll and published it on Monday, the most dissatisfied constituency is Ma'an — where 87.5 per cent of the interviewees were critical of the current Parliament.

The southern city, the scene of anti-Western riots, during last February's U.N.-Iraq stand-off over arms inspections, was followed by the outlying districts of Mafrqa, Madaba, Ajlun, Balqa and Tafleeh in order of dissatisfaction, the survey said.

According to the poll, 51 per cent of Jordanians would support the dissolution of Parliament and early elections, while 67 per cent of interviewees considered the 13th Parliament weaker than the previous one.

Deputies reacted angrily to the poll, describing it as part of a media campaign targeting them, while independent statisticians questioned the methodology and consequently the credibility of the poll.

Al Arab Al Yawm explained that "in choosing the national sample [for the poll], it depended

on the main sample that was designed by the Department of Statistics for the 1994 census. But this did not convince statisticians and researchers interviewed by the Jordan Times yesterday, who insisted that only the Department of Statistics has the ability to provide random samples for surveys in the country."

Deputy Nayef Mula, who was head of the Public Opinion Analysis Department at the Ministry of Information and a trained pollster, argued that no survey could be considered transparent and credible unless the error margin is stated and ranges below +/- 3.5 per cent.

"I remember one of the most useful books I studied, entitled 'How to lie with statistics,'" he commented.

"I have some doubts about how scientific the procedures followed were," said Hani Hourani, director of Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre.

"However, although I cannot judge or agree on the percentages, the results may still reflect the general opinion on this Parliament," he added.

The poll suggested that satisfaction levels would be inversely proportional to the educational background of the interviewees, with 76.5 and 75 per cent of graduates and post-graduates, respectively, leading the ranks of Parliament's critics.

The 13th Parliament did not have an easy start. It was returned in elections marred by widespread allegations of vote rigging and by the boycott of the opposition parties, protesting a "steady erosion of parliamentary authority under successive governments."

The reasons for the dissatis-

faction of those polled were: the government's control over the House (23 per cent); deputies' aspirations to reach ministerial posts (18 per cent); restrictions imposed on opposition deputies (15 per cent); deputies' failure to tackle social problems (11 per cent); or all the above (seven per cent).

The 595 individuals aged 19 and above interviewed by Al Arab Al Yawm cited a number of issues which they considered had not been properly handled by the House, such as the ratification of the one-person, one-vote system (64 per cent) and the endorsement of the Press and Publications Law (70 per cent).

Seventy-nine per cent of the respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the way the 80-member Lower House tackled economic issues in general, while 70 per cent said deputies had not done enough about the water crisis, which dried up taps in Amman during July and August.

"I really do not know what more people wanted us to do," commented an incredulous Salameh Haiyari, one of the deputies who most vocally countered the previous government over the water crisis as head of the House's Agriculture and Irrigation Committee.

At the peak of the water crisis in early August, the Lower House openly called for the resignation of the previous government of Abdul Salam Majali, a rare development in the country's politics.

"I did my best," Haiyari said. "Perhaps," he said, "at the time the survey was carried out (September 3-5), people had not yet seen that action was being taken."



MINISTER RECEIVES BAHRAINI AMBASSADOR: Minister of Information Nasser Judeh on Monday receives Bahraini Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Ben Seif Jaber Al Mussallam (Petra photo)

## Doctors, House speaker meet over complaints with medical board

By a Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A delegation representing 60 physicians Monday presented Lower House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour with a memorandum listing their complaints about the composition and performance of the governing council of the Jordan Medical Board.

Deputy Mohammad Abu Hdeib, who attended the meeting along with seven other deputies, told the Jordan Times that the six-member delegation, representing public and private-sector doctors, submitted the list of grievances to Srour, who promised to refer the memorandum to the House's Health Committee. But no date has been set to discuss the issue, he added.

Haidar Madani, one of the delegation members, told the Jordan Times that their complaints focused on dissatisfaction with the board's governing council, which is chaired by the health minister in accordance with a 1983 law.

"The board's governing council has repeatedly violated the very regulations they drew up in 1983," said Madani. "One major violation is the council's disregard of a provision calling for council elections every three years."

Physicians or specialists wishing to join the board must hold a degree in a specialisation from a recognised university, according to the regulations.

But Madani said "the council members place every possible obstacle they can think of in the way of doctors seeking to join the board, although the applicants have acquired the required specialisation."

He maintained that the council insists that applicants obtain the highest degree or diploma awarded by their respective universities before they can be registered with the board as specialists.

"This condition is meant as an obstacle and an excuse

to turn down applications, even though the council realises that the specialisation degrees were awarded by world-recognised universities and medical institutions and despite the fact that the applicants are ready to sit for the board's examination," argued Madani.

Madani said members of the board's governing council do not all hold the highest degrees from the universities they graduated from and therefore are not fit to judge the qualifications of the 60-member group of doctors whose applications were turned down.

According to Madani, the group submitted a similar complaint to a department at the Prime Ministry five years ago but received no response.

Madani's charges were countered by Tawfiq Lobani, the board's secretary general, who said board membership was automatically granted to all physicians registered with the Jordan Medical Association as specialists before the law governing the board's formation was enacted.

"But doctors who had not registered as specialists with the association before the law was issued, although they were specialists, were not recognised as such by the board at the time," added Lobani.

"However, after a series of meetings between the council and the association president and its board, it was agreed that 36 out of almost 80 doctors who were not registered as specialists with the association before 1982 but whose papers prove that they are eligible for board membership will be fully accepted by the council at a meeting scheduled for next week," Lobani told the Jordan Times.

"The rest of the group were determined to be ineligible by a special committee which studied their respective cases and will not be accepted as members," he added.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### LECTURE

\* "Regional Stability: A Future Outlook" by U.S. Speaker Judith Kipper at the American Center auditorium, Abdoun at 6:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Paintings by Mohammad Halase entitled "A Tune and Colour" at the City Hall, Ras Al 'Ain (Tel. 4743158), until Sept. 30.

\* Display of Bani Hamida and Jordan River Designs products (rugs, cushions, wall-hangings, and quilts) at the Jordan River Designs showroom, until Sept. 30 (Tel. 4613081).

\* Photography exhibition entitled "Les Cite's d'Artistes a Paris" at the premises of the Association of the Jordanian Plastic Artists, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 30.

\* Paintings by Rula Shukairy at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman, until Sept. 30.

### DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER 98 FESTIVAL

"Summer 98" cultural activities at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, to last until Sept. 30, include:

### EXHIBITIONS

\* 50 years of graphic art from Lebanon and works by Jordanian artist Sahel Hiari at the Main House.

\* Works by Iraqi artist Samer Usama and by Jordanian artist Said Haddadin at the Blue House.

\* Installation works by Jordanian artist Samia Zaru at the Byzantine Church.

\* Exhibition of photographs "Memory of a Place" by Jordanian artist Hussein Da'seh at the Museum.

## 'New measures have limited drug trafficking'

By Ahmad Khatib

AMMAN — The government Monday said new measures by the Anti-Narcotics Department have limited drug trafficking and abuse over the last two years.

Minister of Information Nasser Judeh said the amount of heroin seized by the department from 1996 to 1998 equalled the amount seized during the previous 20 years.

"The drug problem in Jordan is serious but not alarming," Judeh told the press at a regular briefing yesterday. "Thanks to the new effective measures, the department is now more successful in combating drugs and rehabilitating people using them."

According to Judeh, in 1996 the department brought 326 drug-related cases before the authorities; 556 Jordanians and

100 other nationals were involved. In that year, 1,349 kilograms of hashish, 67.1 kg of heroin, 43.35 kg of opium, 1.1 kg of cocaine and around 25 million pills, including tranquilisers and stimulants, were seized.

In 1997, 492 drug cases were prosecuted; in these 701 Jordanians and 102 other nationals were reported to have been involved. In the same year, 894 kg of hashish, 82 kg of heroin, 22 kg of opium, 237 grammes of cocaine and around two million pills were seized.

This year, the department has so far prosecuted 336 drug-related cases involving 581 Jordanians and 48 other nationals. In its investigations, the department has seized 33 kg of hashish and 29 kg of heroin.

According to the minister, the rehabilitation centre, set up by the department in 1994, has

treated 283 substance abuse patients from 1995 to 1998. Thirteen, he said, were under the age of 20, 161 were between 20 and 29, 75 were 30-39, 32 were between 40 and 49, and three were over 50 years old.

"As the figures show, we are talking about huge drug amounts and dozens of addicts not hundreds," Judeh said.

Judeh added that "for many years Jordan was considered as a route for drug trafficking, especially in the eastern desert, but because of the effective measures being implemented on the ground, the government is catching a lot more [smugglers] than it had caught in the past."

Four years ago, His Majesty King Hussein sounded the alarm on Jordan's drug problem.

He said then that United Nations figures showed the

Kingdom had 7,000 drug abusers, hooked mainly on tranquilisers but also heroin.

"We are either ashamed or we are unable to talk about this problem and start finding solutions, be it through tougher measures against smugglers and dealers or setting up centres to treat addicts and save them," the King said. "But to remain shy and to keep silent, in my view, is a mistake we are committing against ourselves and our children."

Last December, the Anti-Narcotics Department disclosed that drug abuse had increased over the past few years and over 3,000 citizens were suffering from drug dependency.

Under the supervision of the department, the government announced in July that a hospital specialised in drug-related problems would open in Amman soon.

## Three accused of slander acquitted

By a Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Three brothers who have been standing trial on lese majeste charges were freed by the State Security Court on Monday.

The three brothers, Jamal Abed Ahmad, 35, Mustafa, 33, and Mohammad, 30, were found innocent of the charges by the court tribunal for "lack of evidence."

According to the charge sheet, two months ago, the three were arrested following a brawl and were charged with slandering His Majesty King Hussein.

Meanwhile, the State Prosecutor is interrogating two suspects on allegations of trafficking illicit drug while they were serving time in prison, according to a report in a local daily.

The two men put around 200 pills in balloons and swallowed them, "then they

would commit minor crimes to enter the prison," the report said.

It added that the matter was discovered after prison authorities received a tip that pills were hidden behind the heater in one of the cells.

This is the second such case to be reported by the authorities. In May 1998, the State Prosecutor referred six people to court on charges of drug dealing inside one of the state's prisons.

September 22, 1998



le Hamra street Monday it is broadcast live. More leader addressed world

## BRIEF

1,000 for tourism

Tourism and Antiquities Affairs Ministry has allocated 1,000 Jordanian dinars to assist in the development of archaeological sites and museums. The ministry has also allocated 1,000 dinars to assist in the development of archaeological sites and museums.

mittees

up decided Monday to move to establish an international code of national media conduct to deal with a briefing ending a three-day media experts' meeting from the Association of Press Councils. The meeting was held in Amman, and the ministry has already sent municipalities. The meeting was held in Amman, and the ministry has already sent municipalities.

member of Hamas

ity forces beat and then arrested witnesses said Monday. y at Al Quds university in Abu a the West Bank, which is under a three-year curfew, student a friend when a white car and e people in civilian clothes got students and began to hit them.

boss pending trial

dge released the leader of the ish party on Monday pending a ership of the Kurdistan Wor- "As the completion of the trial decided that all the suspects are ray told the Anti-Terror State f the Peoples' Democracy Party ies face minimum jail terms of ad of PKK membership.

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|-------|--------------------|------------|
| 12:00 | Geneva, France (R) | Paris (R)  |
| 12:10 | Madrid (R)         | Cairo (R)  |
| 12:15 | Madrid (R)         | Cairo (R)  |
| 13:05 | Bahrain, Doha (R)  | Jeddah (R) |
| 20:15 | Paris (R)          | Doha (R)   |
| 20:25 | Paris (R)          | Doha (R)   |
| 20:40 | Paris (R)          | Doha (R)   |

Other Flights

|       |                       |
|-------|-----------------------|
| 06:25 | Frankfurt (H)         |
| 09:00 | Cairo (M)             |
| 13:30 | Riyadh (S)            |
| 13:30 | Aden (H)              |
| 14:15 | Munich (H)            |
| 15:00 | Istanbul (H)          |
| 16:20 | Doha (R)              |
| 16:20 | Doha (R)              |
| 18:05 | Tel Aviv (H)          |
| 20:10 | Beirut (H)            |
| 22:55 | Beirut, Amsterdam (H) |
| 00:55 | Bucharest (H)         |
| 03:00 | Rome (H)              |
| 05:35 | Lamaca (H)            |
| 06:30 | Paris (H)             |
| 08:20 | Lamaca (H)            |

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|-------|---|
| 08:20 | Royal Wings (RW) Flights                |
| 07:00 | Aqaba (from Marka Air-<br>port) (RW)    |
| 08:30 | Aqaba (from Marka Air-<br>port) (RW)    |
| 16:30 | Tel Aviv (from Marka Air-<br>port) (RW) |
| 20:30 | Aqaba (from QAL) (RW)                   |



# Spain PM seeks united response to ETA truce

MADRID (R) — Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar Monday launched a crucial round of talks with leading politicians aimed at forging a united front in response to a ceasefire by the Basque separatist group ETA.

Facing growing pressure to set aside doubts and seek a negotiated peace with ETA, Aznar first met one of his toughest critics, Socialist secretary-general Joaquín Almunia, in a closed-door session at the presidential palace.

The opposition Socialists, Spain's largest party after the ruling centre-right Popular Party, have chided Aznar for being caught off guard by ETA's announcement and failing to seize the initiative.

But officials said Aznar remained firm in his conviction that his government must not be rushed into a response to ETA's promise last Wednesday to end its bloody 30-year fight for Basque independence.

ETA's initiative, modelled on the Irish Republican Army's ceasefire in Northern Ireland, is considered the closest thing to a breakthrough in Spain in nearly a decade.

"Common sense dictates that we must avoid being hurried into a solution without having held a dialogue with everyone the government needs to consult," Justice Minister Margarita Mariscal de Gante said.

Aznar has greeted the unilateral rebel truce with scepticism, saying ETA cannot be trusted to honour it. But he has promised to be "flexible" if ETA proves it has truly renounced violence.

The daily El Mundo reported Sunday that, despite official doubts, ETA's leadership was prepared to maintain its truce for at least six months "no matter what happens".

It marks the first time the separatists have declared an unlimited truce since they turned to violence in 1968 to back their demands for an independent Basque state in northern Spain.

The last ETA ceasefire in 1996 ended after just a week.

Aznar cut short a visit to Peru to return to Madrid at the weekend for briefings with key ministers.

His meeting with Almunia was the first in a series of talks scheduled with the leaders of other major parties in an attempt to create a broad consensus across ideological lines.

But Basque nationalists, who helped secure the ETA ceasefire after months of negotiations with the guerrillas' political wing Herri Batasuna, have accused the government of stalling the process.

Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja has ruled out any changes in Basque policy before regional elections to be held on Oct. 25 in the



Spanish Prime Minister José María Aznar (left) greets Socialist opposition leader Joaquín Almunia before their meeting at Moncloa palace. Aznar launched a crucial round of talks with leading Spanish politicians aimed at forging a united front in response to a ceasefire by the Basque separatist group ETA (Reuters photo)

three Basque provinces.

In the meantime, he has vowed that the government will continue its crackdown on ETA despite its pledge to stop killing.

Many Spanish politicians have urged Aznar not to miss the chance to start a long-awaited peace dialogue.

Former Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez acknowledged that ETA's move might be a trap but insisted it was "an opportu-

nity that must be accepted".

Public opinion has been bitterly divided in response to the ceasefire. Polls show most Basques think ETA's ceasefire is legitimate, while most Spaniards outside the region believe it is a tactical trick.

ETA, which stands for Basque Homeland and Freedom in the Basque language, is one of the last home-grown guerrilla groups still active in Western Europe.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Swedish PM cancels Clinton, Blair meeting

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Swedish Social Democratic Prime Minister Göran Persson pulled out of Monday's "Third Way" conference with U.S. President Bill Clinton and British PM Tony Blair after suffering a severe setback in Sunday's general election. Persson pulled out of the international conference after his Social Democratic party won reelection but failed to secure a majority in parliament. The Swedish leader is now expected to engage in political talks at home in a bid to seek support for his beleaguered party. Swedish Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallén will replace Persson at the one-day conference, co-hosted by Clinton and Blair. The "Third Way" refers to their political ideology, half-way between free-market economics and socialism. Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi is also expected to attend the conference, while German Social Democratic leader Gerhard Schröder will not attend because of his country's Sept. 27 general election.

### Yavlinsky hospitalised with heart attack

MOSCOW (AFP) — Liberal Russian opposition leader Grigory Yavlinsky of the Yabloko faction has been hospitalised with a heart attack. ITAR-TASS reported Monday. Yavlinsky, 46, was hospitalised Friday evening, faction spokeswoman Yevgeniya Dillendorff told the news agency. Doctors said Yavlinsky's condition was improving and his life was not in imminent danger, the news agency reported. ITAR-TASS said Yavlinsky may be released from an unidentified hospital within three days. The opposition leader this month played a key role in steering the country out of political crisis by proposing Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov's candidacy to lead Russia's cabinet. Facing dissolution, parliament overwhelmingly approved Primakov's candidacy when both Yavlinsky's Yabloko faction and the Communists united behind the former foreign minister. Primakov last week asked Yavlinsky to work in the government as a first deputy prime minister in charge of social affairs. But Yavlinsky declined, citing his unwillingness to work side-by-side with Communist Party members who were also granted cabinet seats. He finished fourth in the first round of Russia's 1996 presidential elections and has since announced plans to run for the presidency in the next polls, scheduled for 2000. A radical monetarist in the first years of post-Soviet reform, Yavlinsky has been equally critical of the Kremlin's efforts at economic reform as well as state-intervention policies championed by the left. But he and his party have refused several offers to work in Russian governments, saying that Yabloko will not implement anybody else's policies but only its own.

### Chechen field commander predicts release of Russian envoy

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin's personal envoy to Chechnya, who has been held captive in the republic since May, could soon be released, a former rebel field commander said Monday. Salman Raduyev, told the Interfax news agency that Valentin Vlasov, kidnapped at gunpoint on May 1, was likely to be set free and "returned to his family within a week," the Interfax news agency said. Raduyev, a field commander in the 1994-96 war for independence with Russia, said he had helped mediate the release Sunday of British hostages Camilla Carr and Jon James, who were kidnapped in July 1997. "I acted as a mediator in tackling this problem," he said. Raduyev also helped broker the release Saturday of two Russian soldiers, taken prisoner during the 1994-96 Chechen war. Russian television reported. "Talks on Vlasov's release are almost over and only a few issues still need to be settled," Raduyev told Interfax. "Vlasov will be released without any preliminary conditions and without the payment of a ransom." About 200 people, both military and civilian, have been kidnapped in Chechnya since the end of the war and are mostly being held for ransom, an official in Russia's presidential commission on prisoners of war told the ITAR-TASS news agency Monday. Another 794, including 689 Russian servicemen, are regarded as missing presumed dead in Chechnya as a result of the war. Konstantin Golubovskiy said. He said about 10 Russian soldiers, taken captive during the war, are still being held as prisoners of war.

### Malaria kills 300,000 Nigerians a year

LAGOS (AFP) — Malaria kills about 300,000 Nigerians a year, a top health ministry official told a seminar here at the weekend, press reports said Monday. The director of the health ministry's national malaria programme, Dr. Ntadom, told the seminar that almost two in 10 Nigerian children die of the disease, the privately-owned newspaper This Day reported. The doctor said the disease attacks about 50 per cent of the people at some point in their lives.

### Japanese man arrested for filming girls with see-all video camera

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese police arrested a 34-year-old man Monday for allegedly filming girls in swimsuits with a Sony video camera that can see through clothing, a police official said. Police alleged the man was taping the high school girls at a swimming competition in the central Japan city of Shizuoka on Aug. 25 from "unnatural" angles as they came out of the pool. The police official declined to disclose the type of video camera used by the man, saying it had not yet been officially confiscated. Sony removed five models of Handycam TRV video cameras from shop shelves in early August because the infrared technology they contained could see through clothing. The "night shot function," designed to allow taping of nocturnal animals and sleeping children in darkness, can be used to see through clothing in the daytime by attaching a filter for infra-red shooting to the lens. Users can see beneath wet swimsuits or the underwear of lightly dressed people when the equipment's night shoot mode is activated during daytime, magazines and gossip shows have said in a spate of reports. Sony has admitted the reported effects "under limited conditions". The electronics giant has already made an "architectural change" to the equipment so the remodelled version shows only a white screen if the night shot mode is used in daylight.

## Three China dissidents to run in local elections

BEIJING (R) — A group of three Chinese dissidents plan an unprecedented challenge to the Communist Party by standing in local elections in Beijing, a spokesman for the group said Monday.

Pro-democracy activists have not competed in an election as an organised group since the Communists came to power in 1949.

The move follows a bid by pro-democracy dissidents to register China's first opposition party under the banner of the China Democratic Party. Authorities appear to have slammed the door on the attempt.

The three dissidents who hope to run in Beijing's local polls are not linked with the unproved China Democratic Party.

Election officials say individuals can contest general elections in China if they meet certain criteria.

But Gao Hongming, one of the spokesmen for the dissidents' group, said he expected "trouble" from authorities over the bid.

Even if the dissidents are allowed to run, they concede they have little hope of success in year-end elections to Beijing's district and county People's Congresses.

The local congresses are part of a system of grassroots democracy that U.S. President Bill Clinton praised during his visit to China in June.

The three are Gao, 48, who is jobless, He Depu, 41, a tree planter, and Wang Zhixian, 49, a laid-off factory worker.

"I think my chances of winning are very small," said Gao, a former administrator with the Diplomatic Service Bureau, the organisation that provides staff to foreign embassies and news organisations in Beijing.

"But it is my right and duty," he said. Gao was sent to a labour camp in 1994 to undergo reeducation through labour for two years for "disrupting public order in society".

"We will be showing our faces as China's political opposition," Gao said. "We have common views and will try to help each other." He, a tree planter with the Beijing Academy of Social Sciences, ran in grassroots elections in the Chinese capital in 1980 but lost.

Wang, who took part in the 1978-79 Democracy Wall movement, was laid off from a loss-making state-owned company last year.

Beijing has 10 districts and eight counties with about eight million eligible voters.

The district and county people's congresses have about 5,000 members, 65-70 per cent of them Communist Party members.

Grassroots elections were first introduced in 1954, but were suspended during the chaotic 1966-76 Cultural Revolution before being reinstated in 1979.

Dissident Zhao Changqing was sentenced to three years in prison recently for "disrupting social order" after he ran in local People's Congress elections in Hanzhong city in northern Shaanxi province.

Thirteen dissidents who sought approval to set up the first branch of the China Democratic Party in Hangzhou, capital of eastern Zhejiang province, were arrested in July and later released.

Subsequent attempts to register the party in the cities of Jinan and Wubai raised dissidents' hopes since authorities did not outright reject the applications.

But last week five dissidents were detained briefly in Beijing, Shanghai and eastern Shandong province when they tried yet again to register the party, a Hong Kong-based human rights group said Sunday.

The five were told their party was an "illegal organisation", according to the Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China.

## Students protest Suharto wealth probe delay; attorney general says ready

JAKARTA (AFP) — Student protesters called here Monday for an immediate probe into allegations former President Suharto had accumulated a fortune while in power, as Attorney General Andi Ghalib told parliament the probe would go ahead.

"Pak Harto (Suharto) is ready to meet with the (attorney general's) team. God willing soon. But until today we haven't found any evidence that his wealth is the result of corruption and collusion," Ghalib said.

He said Suharto would come to his office "if his health permits him," otherwise the questioning would take place in Suharto's residence in Jakarta's Cendana street.

As Ghalib faced parliament some 200 students protested outside to demand a thorough and comprehensive investigation of the allegations.

The students from several universities in Bandung, some 200 kilometres from Jakarta, waved posters and yelled slogans demanding the wealth of Suharto, his family and cronies be investigated.

If evidence of corruption were found, they should be brought to trial, the students said.

"I think it is only a technical problem that we have not met with Pak Harto (yet)," Ghalib said, answering MPs' queries as to why the interrogation, earlier billed for last week, had yet to begin.

Ghalib also said the enquiry would be extended to the ex-president's six children, all of whom are business tycoons, "if they are healthy and ... if they are involved."

Answering sharp criticism of a statement he made earlier this month that he believed Suharto when the former leader said he had "not one cent" in foreign accounts, Ghalib said he was only following the

principle of "innocent until proven guilty."

Anger has been mounting here since Suharto's "not one cent" claim was made on a TV station owned by his daughter on Sept. 6, both against the government's alleged footdragging on the interrogation and against Suharto.

Friday opposition reformist Amien Rais gave the government a deadline of two weeks in which to question Suharto and prove it was not just making a farce of the situation.

The students outside the parliament complex gate also demanded the government rapidly bring down prices of goods, including essentials.

One of the demonstrators, crawled on the road in front of the gate, carrying the national flag, symbolising the nation which was currently crippled by the worst economic turmoil it has faced in decades.

The students, unable to

enter the parliament compound because of the thick cordon of police and soldiers manning the gate, left peacefully after their protest.

A second group of demonstrators came later Monday to the parliament, some wearing headbands saying "Movement to Save the Nation," "Anti KKN solidarity," referring to the Indonesian acronym for corruption, collusion and nepotism, and "Muslim Students for Reform."

The protesters, according to witnesses, did not appear to have a main theme for their protest and aired a variety of demands and complaints instead.

The official Antara news agency said the demonstrators halted passing cars, hassling the drivers and passengers for money and cigarettes.

A joint security force of police and soldiers remained on guard inside the parliament compound but did not intervene.

## Hurricane Georges takes aim at Puerto Rico

CHARLESTOWN, Nevis (R) — A weaker but still menacing Hurricane Georges charged towards the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico Monday after pounding the small islands of the northeast Caribbean.

Georges ripped apart buildings, cut power and whipped up seas on Guadeloupe and Antigua. Rain and high winds also lashed Montserrat and Dominica, downing utility poles and trees, the British Broadcasting Corporation said.

To the west, people on Puerto Rico, still harbouring memories of the destruction wrought by Hurricane Hugo in 1989, emptied stores of bottled water, canned goods and other supplies and boarded up windows as the storm set its sights on their island.

"I feel we're in good shape for a response but I'm concerned for the people there," James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management

Agency in Washington, said.

The National Hurricane Centre, in its 8 a.m. (1200 GMT) advisory, put the core of the tempest near latitude 17.5 north and longitude 63.7 West, about 120 km east of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands and about 265 km east southeast of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

It was expected to move over the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico later Monday. Forecasters warned that the destructive winds covered a wide swathe.

Hurricane warnings now cover the northeastern Caribbean from the Dominican Republic to Dominica, meaning at least 4.6 million people are threatened with hurricane conditions within 24 hours.

"If you are anywhere in the warning area, you should prepare for the worst," the hurricane centre said.

Georges was packing maximum winds of 175 kph and moving at about 28 kph. It was downgraded to a Category 2 hurricane but was still dangerous, meteorologist Mark Demaria said.

"If it goes over Puerto Rico or the Dominican Republic it should weaken but if it just skirts them, then it is likely to strengthen," Demaria said.

Georges whacked the north of the French island of Guadeloupe Sunday night then passed about 65 to 80 km south of the French-Dutch possession of St. Martin.

A spokesman for emergency services in Guadeloupe reported heavy seas and rainstorms, and said winds were between 100-150 kph, less than had been feared.

"I can see roofs and houses flying," a witness on the island of Desirade, east of Guadeloupe, told French overseas radio at the height of the storm Sunday evening.

"There is a lot of wind, rain and the sea is rough," she said. There were no reports of casualties and damage had yet to be assessed, a spokeswoman for the French Overseas Territory's emergency unit in Paris said. Electricity was knocked out on several of the islands and telecommunications were disrupted.

On Antigua, a relatively flat island just northwest of Guadeloupe, residents initially reported howling winds but less rain than expected.

The storm is expected to pass over Hispaniola Tuesday and Wednesday and could reach Cuba by Thursday if it continues on its present course, Demaria said.

Florida residents were also growing edgy though forecasters said it was too early to tell if Georges would lurch their way.

"People on the (U.S.) east coast need to pay attention," Demaria said.

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**Swedish Social Democrats**

Persson pulled out of conference with U.S. President Clinton after suffering a heart attack. Persson's general election conference after his re-election but failed to win. The Swedish leader's political talks at home in a eleventh-hour bid to replace the outgoing prime minister. Persson's political talks at home in a eleventh-hour bid to replace the outgoing prime minister. Persson's political talks at home in a eleventh-hour bid to replace the outgoing prime minister.

**ospitalised**

Heart attack. Persson pulled out of conference with U.S. President Clinton after suffering a heart attack. Persson's general election conference after his re-election but failed to win. The Swedish leader's political talks at home in a eleventh-hour bid to replace the outgoing prime minister. Persson's political talks at home in a eleventh-hour bid to replace the outgoing prime minister.

**Police seize North Ireland bomb suspects**

DUBLIN (R) — Police hunting bombers who killed 29 people in the Northern Irish town of Omagh last month arrested nine people Monday in dawn raids north and south of the Irish border. Three men aged between 19 and 34 were seized in the Irish Republic while six were arrested in a dawn swoop in British-ruled Northern Ireland, police said. The suspects were held under tough new laws rushed through the British and Irish parliaments to crush splinter groups opposed to Northern Ireland's peace deal, signed in April. This includes the Real IRA, which broke away from the mainstream Irish Republican Army in opposition to a ceasefire it called in July 1997. The Real IRA admitted planting the bomb in the Northern Irish market town — the deadliest attack in three decades of conflict over British rule in the province. The group issued confusion.

**French cities ban cars in anti-pollution trial**

PARIS (R) — French pedestrians enjoy a brief revenge over motorists Tuesday as 35 cities ban cars from central districts in a day-long experiment the government hopes will extend to other European Union countries. Paris and several major cities suffering from worsening pollution are risking the wrath of motorists to give citizens a breath of fresh air. The government wants the operation dubbed "Downtown, without my car" to turn into an annual event and trigger a public debate in this car-mad country on how to rid cities of traffic jams and exhaust fumes. "For decades, cities have been built for cars... we can't let things get out of control when we are close to asphyxia," Transport Minister Jean-Claude Gaxotte told the daily Le Monde. Motorbikes, emergency services, doctors, taxis and electricity-powered cars will be exempt from the ban. Motorists are being encouraged to use public transport, and authorities in some towns will provide bicycles free of charge. Rouen, Nantes, Tours, Strasbourg and Grenoble are taking part. But some of the biggest cities, like Lyon and Marseille, have declined. In most cities, the ban is far from extensive. After much negotiation, the Paris city hall agreed to close down only 57 kms to vehicles, out of a total 1,600 kms, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. The car-free areas will include some of the most popular tourist spots, such as a large part of the Latin Quarter, the Montmartre hill and the Opera and Bastille districts. Surveys and opinion polls show that French people have a split personality regarding cars. About two thirds prefer driving to work rather than using public transport, yet a similar proportion want cars permanently banned from the city centre. Despite rising pollution from exhaust fumes, the French government has long shied away from confronting the motorist lobby. Environment Minister Dominique Voynet, the Greens leader, is campaigning for bolder action, and several cities last summer cut speed limits as heat waves pushed pollution to dangerous levels.



Flood victims in Bangladesh capital Dhaka wait in a queue for a share of cooked food delivered by volunteers. The floods, which have killed more than 1,200 people and left millions homeless, have been receding. Many victims have already left shelters trying to rebuild life in their wrecked homes, but they still faced shortage of food and clean water (Reuters photo)

**Bangladesh flood victims return to their homes**

DHAKA (R) — Families who took refuge in crammed shelters in Bangladesh's capital began returning home Monday as floodwaters which had inundated large areas of the city for more than two months receded, officials said. Dhaka residents had been asked by the authorities to vacate shelters as soon as possible, a disaster management ministry official said. "We are not forcing anyone out but just saying they should go back as their homes are rising above the water," said the official, who declined to be identified. Newspapers Monday reported that many families had already left shelters Sunday, apparently driven out by poor sanitation and spreading disease. "I have been thrown into a virtual sewer with filth, bad smell, flies and mosquitoes," said Muslimuddin Mollah of Dhaka's eastern suburb of Madantek. He left his shelter with his wife and children and returned to his house. The floods, the most prolonged natural disaster in Bangladesh, have killed at least 1,269 people and left millions homeless since beginning in early July. About half of Dhaka, a city of about nine million people, has been under water. The deluge, started by heavy rain and fed by water from upstream India, has caused huge damage to agriculture, industry, infrastructure and housing. Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury said Sunday the country's usual 2-million-tonne annual foodgrain shortfall would be around 4.3 million tonnes this year because of the floods. The minister said there was no fear of famine because the gap would be made up through imports and foreign food aid. The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre said Monday the levels of most flooded rivers were dropping steadily. The Buriganga River near Dhaka dropped below its danger level Monday after 57 days, the centre said. More than 297,000 people had been hit by diarrhoea after drinking polluted water or eating rotten food. At least 385 of them have died. Three had died in Dhaka's International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease and Research in the last 24 hours, centre officials said Monday evening. Health officials have warned the disease may spread further.

**Kohl claws back in last week of campaign**

BONN (R) — Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl began his final week of election campaigning Monday with another poll showing he had clawed back to within two points of challenger Gerhard Schroeder. "We have reasons for optimism," Kohl told a news conference to launch his Christian Democrats' appeal for Germany's 60 million voters to turn out Sunday. Kohl, 68, said the economy was picking up and that unemployment, the main issue in the campaign, was falling. Schroeder's centre-left Social Democratic party dismissed Kohl's final spurt as too little too late. "If they go on like this they will catch us up by spring next year," said SPD campaign manager Franz Muenterting. A poll by Dimap for ARD television showed the conservative CDU climbing half a point to 38.5 per cent while the SPD was stuck on 40.5 per cent. It was the third poll in a week showing the CDU had whittled away the SPD's lead from 12 points in April to just two points. Kohl, running for a record fifth consecutive term, has been buoyed by the strong showing of his party's Bavarian wing in a state election last week. Some of the thrust was blunted, however, by a junior minister who said the government would raise value added tax if reelected. Kohl ruled out a tax hike but the SPD seized upon it as useful election ammunition. SPD chairman Oskar Lafontaine said Monday the party would focus on tax policy in the final week of the campaign which Kohl is fighting on his record as the West's longest-serving leader. "It's not acceptable that lies are told about tax policies before elections," Lafontaine told reporters. "It can't be allowed that the leading politician in this republic always resorts to the methods of deception and lying at election time and goes unpunished," he added. The Dimap poll put support for Kohl's junior coalition partners, the liberal Free Democrats, down half a point at five per cent — the minimum level needed to win seats in the Bundestag lower house of parliament. The leftist Greens, likely coalition partners in an SPD-led government, were steady on 6.5 per cent. The survey — which gave no sample size or margin of error data — also said around 28 per cent of voters were still undecided. Both the Greens and liberals have been canvassing for each other's "second vote" but the bigger parties have ruled out doing their allies any favours by ordering supporters to vote differently on their second ballot. Every German voter has two ballots, one for the candidate in his voting district and one for a national party list. "We have no votes to give away," Kohl said, commenting on the Free Democrats' campaign that urges CDU voters to give the FDP their second vote. "Every party has to fight for its own votes," Kohl said. Since neither Kohl nor Schroeder is expected to win enough seats to govern alone, the role of the small parties is crucial. The election could turn on the performance of the reform communist Party of Democratic Socialism. Dimap put support for the party, the heir to the rulers of the former east, unchanged at 4.5 per cent. The party is campaigning hard for three constituencies in east Berlin. If it wins these three it can stay in the Bonn parliament despite the five per cent cut-off rule. This would make it more difficult for an SPD-Green alliance to form a coalition.

**Allegations of MI6 misconduct handed over to government lawyer**

LONDON (AFP) — Allegations of "illegal activities" by Britain's overseas intelligence agency MI6 were handed over Monday to the government's official lawyer, on behalf of a former MI6 agent making the accusations. John Wadham, lawyer for renegade spy Richard Tomlinson who fled Britain earlier this year, said he hoped the move will prompt the government to set up a full investigation. The allegations will also be passed to a parliamentary committee which scrutinises the security services. Outside the Official Solicitor's office in central London, Wadham refused to discuss the contents of the dossier but called on the government to open an independent investigation into the claims. "Mr. Tomlinson would like to see something done about his allegations. He would like to know that the trouble he has been put to by being arrested wherever he goes in the world and being imprisoned in this country is going to result in some changes to MI6 where he used to work. "My overall concern is the inadequate accountability of the security services and that's why we are reduced to asking the government to investigate itself," Wadham said. Tomlinson was jailed last year for breaching the Official Secrets Act when he tried to find a publisher for his memoirs. Now living in Switzerland, he sent a letter containing the allegations to Wadham. At the weekend the Sunday Times reported that Tomlinson alleged that British intelligence planted a "mole" in the Bundesbank, the German central bank, to pass on information about the German economy. Tomlinson, who worked for MI6 for four years until 1996, said the mole, known as "Orca", was a high-ranking bank official. The former agent said Orca provided regular intelligence on German interest-rate movements and had given information on the German position during key European Union negotiations on a single European currency. Tomlinson also claimed France, Spain, Italy and Switzerland were targets for British economic intelligence. Tomlinson was arrested in Paris in August along with David Shayler, a former agent of Britain's domestic intelligence agency, MI5. The arrests were made at the request of British authorities who suspected the men were about to reveal official secrets. Shayler faces extradition to Britain, while Tomlinson was released.



Art in the room — Gunmen Monday stole two works by Impressionist masters Claude Monet and Alfred Sisley after taking hostage the curator of the Nice arts museum in the south of France. The two hooded gunmen burst into the home of Jean Fornis at 7:00 a.m. and forced him to drive them in his vehicle to the museum where they stole an 1890 Sisley entitled "Allé des peupliers" and an 1897 Monet, "Falaises de Dieppe". The pair took off in the curator's car. The security system was turned off at the museum when the attack took place ahead of opening time as museum staff were already in the building. The unsuspecting guard opened the door to the curator and was immediately tied up and gagged along with another museum employee and locked up in the library. Culture ministry official Xavier Girard said it would be impossible to sell the works, both oils measuring about 65 by 85 centimetres.

**Pakistan's Bhutto seeks Clinton help on Islamic law**

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto sought U.S. President Bill Clinton's help Monday to stop Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from pursuing the implementation of his controversial Islamic law, her party officials said. In a letter to Clinton, on the day he is expected to meet Sharif in New York on the fringes of a U.N. General Assembly session, Bhutto asked Clinton to intervene to make Pakistan a moderate, democratic and tolerant country. The letter, a copy of which was faxed to the media, attacked Sharif's policies after Pakistan conducted a series of nuclear tests in response to similar tests by arch-rival India in May. "The Nawaz regime is seeking to undermine our constitution through passage of a bill under the guise of Sharia Law, a move which will concentrate all powers into the hands of the prime minister, degrade women, and remove all protections for ethnic and religious minorities," Bhutto wrote. The proposed constitutional amendment bill that Sharif wants parliament to approve seeks to make the Koran and Sunnah, teachings of Prophet Mohammad, the supreme law of Pakistan. Critics of the bill say it will bestow extraordinary administrative and constitutional powers on Sharif. The prime minister denies the charge and says he wants to establish an egalitarian Islamic welfare state free of crime and corruption. Parliament is to resume debate on the bill later Monday but it will be few more days before it is voted on because Sharif and other cabinet ministers are outside the country. "I assume that you will be discussing with Prime Minister Sharif the urgent matter of reducing tensions in South Asia, means to resolve the Afghan crisis, and terms for a potential economic assistance package for Pakistan in the post-nuclear era," she said. "While these are important issues, I must implore you to raise with Prime Minister Sharif the tragic developments that I have brought to your attention," she said. "Further, for regional and global stability in this new nuclear age, I urge you to impress upon him the importance of a moderate, democratic and tolerant Pakistan, replete with a strong constitution, freedom of the press, an impartial judiciary and respect for political opposition." No official agenda of Clinton-Sharif talks has been announced but the two leaders are likely to discuss regional tensions, the Kashmir dispute, signing of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and lifting of economic sanctions that were imposed in response to the nuclear tests.

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aria kills about 300,000. Health ministry official told a weekend press report. The health ministry's national radio, told the seminar that children die of the disease. After This Day reported the deaths about 50 per cent of the air lives.

**rested for filming**

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## Jordan Times

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## Getting it together

THE NATIONAL conference on unemployment was off to a good start Sunday when His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, urged the conferees not to limit their deliberations to the diagnosis of the crisis but to cut deeper by identifying operational ways to solve or at least ameliorate it. The Regent's recommendations came amidst reports that the organisers of the conference were bent on giving intermediate and long-term solutions just as much attention as immediate panaceas. When people are hungry, they could care less for delayed solutions, although effective resolution of the problem also requires permanent long-term solutions.

Thus, it is not surprising that there are those who cast doubt about the ability of the conference to come up with concrete ideas to satisfy the urgent and pressing needs of a big chunk of the labour force. The Ministry of Labour's submissions won no applause; they were replays of old tunes. Not only does the government cling to its figure of only 15% unemployment when it is common knowledge that the jobless rate is as high as 27, but appears to explain the rampant problem by way of worn out rationalisations.

Others see in the number of foreign labourers as a principal culprit. Then there were those who attributed the crisis in part to the so-called "culture of shame." So there is not even agreement yet on the extent or the nature of the unemployment phenomenon. This much we need to agree on before we can begin to prescribe immediate and then intermediate and long-term methods for rectifying the situation.

The business climate in the country has clearly been damaged by recent events in the Middle East. Lack of progress in the peace process has certainly cooled investment fever, and the continued sanctions on Iraq have hurt our exports. This is not to mention the overall deflationary international economic process.

There is no denying, however, that the restructuring of our economy along the lines proposed by international monetary agencies may have exasperated the labour intensive industries. We have noted time and again that a dramatic shift to free market economy causes dislocations and imbalances. In many countries the prompt change of economic course has contributed to the widening of the gap between the rich and the poor. Privatisation is a trend-setter but we have to recognise that this type of economic path does indeed add to the unemployment problem and calls for the incorporation of a social safety net.

While we cannot do a great deal about external influences, we certainly can do much more about the domestic scene. As Prince Hassan said, unemployment is not only about statistics but also about human beings who must be protected from hunger and anxiety. This much we must be willing to do right away.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Fahed Fanek criticised the government's policy statement on the economy, which he said did not come up with anything new. The government's statement was more a description than a discussion of the problem, he said, and although he was confident that the government will have a reform programme, he doubted it was ready. The statement affirmed the need to maintain the gains of the economic reform programme, which came as a result of large sacrifices from ordinary Jordanians, and reaffirmed the monetary policy of having to maintain the value of the dinar, added the writer. Fanek claimed the government will sign an investment agreement with the United States which has been ready for three years. He criticised the government for not paying enough attention to privatisation in its statement, claiming the government did not show much commitment to privatise the Jordan Telecommunication company, considered as the cornerstone of Jordan's economic credibility domestically and internationally, said Fanek.

Al Dustour's Hussein Rawashdeh urged the Iranian leadership not to involve itself in a war with Afghanistan. The only losers, said the writer, will be the Muslims from both countries. Iran understands the fact, claimed the writer, that the U.S. reaction to the killing of the two Iranian diplomats in Afghanistan, was designed to incite the former allies to a war of attrition. The only winner from the war would be the United States, he added. The Iranians have learnt from their war with Iraq and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan that war is not a wise option. Nevertheless, the writer called on the Arab countries to interfere and prevent the shedding of Muslim blood. If war erupts, all sides will lose, and the energy and money is better spent on projects to benefit the people of both nations, he concluded.

## View from the Fourth Circle

# Bill, Monica, Ken, and lessons for all

Rami G. Khouri

THE ONGOING spectacle of the Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky scandal reaches something of a climax this week with the release of more documents and videotapes of testimony before the grand jury. What should we make of all this?

My personal analysis is that this is not really a deep personal scandal for Bill Clinton or anyone else. According to the dominant values of American civilisation — personal material gratification and public exhibitionist entertainment — Bill Clinton has probably achieved the height of success. (I can only see two remaining goals for him to achieve in life: to stand in front of the NBC studio during the Today Show and jump up and down like an idiot in front of the cameras, and, to appear on one of the daytime television shows with his family, Monica Lewinsky, Jennifer Flowers, Paula Jones, Ken Starr, and Jesse Jackson and have a good argument, cry a bit, and then finish with a collective hug.)

The most intimate details of Bill Clinton's personal and sexual life are being discussed in public. He professes remorse, apologises three times a day, vows atonement, pleads for redemption and forgiveness, looks the camera and the American people in the eye, and at the end of the day goes to bed relatively sure that almost nobody in the United States or the world believes him — because he has been shown to be an irresponsible liar.

Yet, his job approval ratings are very high: two-thirds of Americans want him to stay in office, and feel that Ken Starr's investigation has gone too far and for too long. What could all this mean? It might mean that the United States is not ignoring the concept of sin, but merely redefining it, and separating sin from criminality. Issues of morality and sin are increasingly relegated to Sunday schools and children's theatres in contemporary America; in the real world, the important and operative criteria of what is deemed acceptable behaviour have little to do with traditional concepts of right and wrong, or good and bad (there are only three perfect men in the United States,

as far as I can tell: Walter Cronkite, Arnold Palmer, and Sammy Sosa, everybody else is damaged goods).

Bill Clinton is a flawed human being who is also doing a good job as president — the American majority says — because the economy is robust and most Americans feel their quality of life is improving. The message is that the personal gratification of individual Americans is more important than the collective dignity of their community or nation.

This is totally in keeping with the American trend towards a society that enjoys neither shame nor privacy. Bill Clinton's repeated dishonourable behaviour with women subordinates and in lying to the American people, should have caused him shame enough for several lifetimes. But there is no shame here. His public credibility and support remain strong.

We witness today the point of convergence of two historical trends that have long defined the best and worst aspects of American life: Benjamin Franklin, meet the Bold and the Beautiful. American public figures and political leaders should promote the productivity and efficacy of the American economy so that free individual citizens can live a good life, and they should also provide really high quality entertainment to their people. Bill Clinton achieves high grades on both counts — and that's probably why he's president. His moral weaknesses are not a sign of his downfall, but rather of his success all these years.

But this is not only entertaining. It is also instructive, especially when viewed from a distance. The most important aspect of this matter to me is the separation of political powers, and the role of the judiciary. I tip my cap to an American system that appoints a special prosecutor to undertake the sort of investigation that Ken Starr has made, and one that gives all sides the opportunity to give testimony and review evidence.

The simultaneous, high-energy roles of the judiciary, the Congress, the White House and the mass media in the

United States these days is an inspiring spectacle. I am impressed and slightly jealous that four separate sources of power and authority in America wage public battle to try to determine a) the moral verdict and political will of the American people, and, b) the appropriate political response to Bill Clinton's personal misdeeds. We may have something to learn from the good points of this American drama.

This is the real definition of democracy and accountability in the United States today: after the full disclosure of the facts, the majority will of the people will prevail. This formidable expression of the sovereignty of the people is built on a system of real checks-and-balances among the different branches of government. It may not be suitable for other countries, but it is sparkling in its American context. You can be sure that other American public figures will be more careful in their behaviour in the years to come. This is what accountability is all about. If you misbehave, and are caught, you pay the price.

What price will President Clinton pay? Impeachment seems rather harsh, and a censure by Congress pretty meaningless. I suggest something in between: if the U.S. Congress, representing the American people, really finds Bill Clinton's behaviour to be unacceptable, they should ask him to take a voluntary leave of absence for two months, giving him time and reason for atonement, redemption and all the other good things that he says he is now deeply engaged in. This would truly humiliate him for a short period of time — and thus provide meaningful punishment — while also allowing him to continue his term of office and keep the good times rolling for his friendly, happy constituency.

The genius of American civilisation is that it has always combined serious concepts of good governance with examples of both public criminality and personal frivolity. We should enjoy the fleeting entertainment in the latter, and draw useful lessons from the former.

# The system is broken

America's preoccupation with a president's disgrace is bad news for the rest of the world

By Michael Elliott

THE PROLOGUE is over; the play has begun. With the publication last Friday of Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's report on the Monica Lewinsky affair, the crisis in the Clinton presidency moves to a new stage. The salaciousness of Starr's report could lead to a backlash against him, and support for the president. But it is also plausible that the course now set could lead to the president's removal from office, either by impeachment or because, like Richard Nixon 24 years ago, he resigns because of a collapse in his political support.

This is a matter of profound moment for the whole world. It explains why this issue of Newsweek International is very largely devoted to the Clinton crisis, and long excerpts of Starr's report have been printed, which is, in effect, an indictment of the president. The report includes graphic descriptions of the sexual encounters between Clinton and Lewinsky of a sort that would not normally be published; this is done because, for good or ill, they are at the heart of Starr's accusation — that Clinton perjured himself twice over in describing the nature of his relationship with Lewinsky.

There is a great irony in the Clinton affair, and it is this: The crisis in the American presidency matters more to the world outside the United States than it does

inside the country. The enormous stature granted to the president within the United States is of comparatively recent vintage. It is a product of 60 years of overlapping crises that started in 1929 and that encompassed an economic depression, wars — both hot and cold — and the great struggle for the civil rights of black Americans. In each of these crises, America needed a strong president and federal government, able to get done those things that were beyond the power of state governments and the private sector. But the fall of the Berlin wall brought that long period to an end.

America is a prosperous country, at peace, and one that long ago signalled that it was not prepared to grant the federal government new powers to advance the cause of racial equality. It was Bill Clinton's bad luck to win a presidency whose stature had been subtly diminished; within the bounds of the land of the free, it simply matters less than it once did who the president is. It cannot plausibly be argued that a transfer of powers from Clinton to Al Gore, his vice president, would mark a sort of epochal rupture in the affairs of the nation.

To the world outside, however, an America distracted from its purpose by a constitutional crisis is a disaster. America is the indispensable nation, on which the world's political and economic security depends. As Simon

Jenkins wrote in The Times of London last week, "we cannot

*'The rest of the world, when it views the United States in the fall of 1998, can be forgiven for thinking that the society it sees is an ugly one'*

deny America's role as a guarantor of world peace. A strong American democracy remains the fountain of that order. The president represents that democracy... The West has no interest in (his) downfall... He is ex officio the spokesman for freedom. He is a

necessary hero." At a time of economic collapse in Asia and Russia, of a war between Islamists and the West, of clear and pressing danger in the Middle East, and of misery in Africa, the uncertainty in Washington, and the lack of authority of a president who has been reduced to a laughing stock, is profoundly disturbing.

Americans understand the importance of their country, and many of them worry about how it now looks. All the same, they can say, with some justice, that they did not ask the rest of the world to rely on their own good sense and reason. But the rest of the world does; and when it views the United States in the fall of 1998, it can be forgiven for thinking that the society it sees is an ugly one, riven by petty disputes. The hatred between Clinton's supporters and his pursuers is shocking, and over what? The matters that divide them, compared to the great ideological divides seen earlier in the century, are picaresque — every major American politician is a capitalist, every one a patriot, every one a democrat, every one committed to the cause of personal liberty. Clinton, of course, has betrayed the trust of those closest to him and the nation as a whole — I offer no defence of his conduct, nor suggest that he is fit to be a leader. But a nation that spends a year tearing itself apart over the truthfulness of his account of a tawdry affair is one

whose politics have become decadent.

Decadence, sadly, is all too obvious in modern America. The details of the Starr report — which are such that, quite literally, many will now know more about the sexual practices of the president than those of their best friend — are just the latest manifestation of a culture grown coarse. One does not need to endorse the finger-wagging moralism of zealots to think that a society whose films, TV, magazines and conversation are so obsessed with the business of sexual gratification is not a healthy one. Other generations left such mysteries to the beatings of the private heart. That is now called hypocrisy, but it was not unwise.

I first arrived in the United States in August 1974, a few days after Nixon resigned. I was a young man, starting my first full-time job, and was overwhelmed by a sense of freedom and vitality — but also by the honour, dignity and political maturity with which the nation had ridden itself of a disgraced president. "The system worked," everyone said, with justified pride. Whatever the outcome of the political crisis of 1998, I would hazard a guess you won't hear that little judgement trotted out this year. The system is sick.

The writer is the editor of Newsweek International.

# You like books? That's unusual

Many students are bored by classic texts because they lack any rapport with the authors

By Stephen Logan

PEOPLE COMMONLY suppose that teaching literature must be a delightful occupation. After all, the subject matter is so interesting and the students, presumably, so keen.

In principle, of course, these are fair assumptions. Literature deals, in the most diverse, ingenious and interesting ways, with the very stuff of life. It covers the entire span of familiar experience from birth to death and it speculates on what is (to author, reader, or both) unfamiliar or unknown. It tells us, as nothing else can, what it has felt like to be alive under an inexhaustible diversity of historical and social conditions.

Not to be interested in it is unthinkable, surely? Well, no. There is a difference between being interested in your own experience and being interested in what other people have written about theirs. But even though not everyone is equally given to reflecting on what happens, some capacity for being interested in experience is a basic human attribute. It seems reasonable to suppose that by the time students reach A level standard, they will be competent readers and that, by the time some of them go to university they will be well on the way to being literary critics. But again, this is only half-true.

In many casual discussions of reading,

literature is assumed to be modern. But most of what we call literature is, in fact, old. And the further back you go in time, the more you need to know in order simply to make sense of a literary text. Let alone understand why you should enjoy it.

I once taught Tom Jones (1749) to a very able group of sixth formers. They were interested in the basic issues that could be abstracted from the book and talked freely and fruitfully about whether having a good disposition is just luck, whether honour matters more than piety and whether sexual promiscuity wasn't more reprehensible in the 18th century than now.

The trouble started when we tried to discover more exactly what Fielding thought about such things by closely examining his words. It soon became apparent that these intelligent, well-educated students had difficulty in reading Fielding's prose: the syntax felt too complex, many words had undergone important changes of meaning and, the whole pace of the narrative was simply too leisurely for their tastes.

The linguistic impediments to reading old books are often more serious than with Fielding. Getting an able and willing undergraduate to read Chaucer, Malory, Spenser or even Bunyan with any degree of fluency is often very difficult. The popularity of the recent film of Romeo and Juliet depended not only on brilliant camera-work and direction, but on the excision from the text of nearly everything a modern reader might be stumped by. Fair enough: but the new film and the old play

are only nominally the same.

My sixth form students had a deeper problem with Tom Jones. They could not easily imagine the system of values underlying the book. This, too, is a problem which gets worse as you go back in time. Most pre-modernist literature in English is profoundly influenced by Christianity and by classical precedent. Most post-modernist literature is not. There is thus often a serious disparity of assumptions between old books and modern readers.

Hence what really holds students up in their reading is a sense of a lack of rapport with their authors; and this, combining with more practical difficulties is often enough to dissuade them from further effort. They have in a word got bored.

Even modern literature has its problems. Ever since the publication, in the 1920s, of Eliot's The Waste Land, Joyce's Ulysses, Pound's Cantos and Woolf's To the Lighthouse, it has been assumed that the best books are the most difficult. Hence there is now a distinction in the publishing trade between "literary" or "original" fiction and the rest.

You know which books are literary from feeling simultaneously an urge to buy them with a disinclination to read them. This equation of literary sophistication with difficulty, occurring at a time when traditional standards of judgement are in disarray, has had disastrous results.

The worst, perhaps, is that bad writers are able to cheat diffident readers into submission by seeming clever. Hence you get the spectacle — still, unfortunately,

common — of poets, novelists, playwrights and critics implying that if you can't be bothered to penetrate their obscurities, you must be thick. Youngsters tend to respond to this either by turning away in healthy retaliation, or else by becoming prigs.

Recent poetry and fiction shows signs of regaining its accessibility. And the dominant literary forms — not the novel, play or lyric poem, but the newspaper article, the screenplay and the song — are in good health. Nonetheless, traditional literature has been culturally marginalised and the dominance of the audio-visual media has fostered habits of attention unsuited to leisurely, careful reading.

The most obvious obstacles to good reading are lack of the necessary kinds of linguistic knowledge; remoteness from the underlying assumptions of old books and unreadable habits of attention. Less obvious, but more damaging, however, is the loss of faith in reading as a potential source of wisdom. This has weakened the principal motive for becoming a versatile reader. The job of the teacher of literature is not to sigh appreciatively over masterworks the students have only to open to enjoy, but to promote good reading by encouraging students to recognise the difficulties that stand in the way of it.

The writer is Director of Studies in English, St. Edmund's College, Cambridge.

— The Independent



# Swedes not put off by high taxes

Newly re-elected Prime Minister Goran Persson, if he forms a new government, will have proven that voters are not necessarily repelled by election pledges that embrace raising taxes. That is, at least not voters in Sweden.

By Belinda Goldsmith  
Reuters

SWEDEN'S CRADLE-to-grave welfare system is envied throughout the world but many Swedes are becoming tired of paying for it. With income tax of up to 55 per cent and a 25 per cent value added tax on most goods and services, Swedes are among the most highly-taxed people on earth.

In the past, tax cuts have not been a priority in Swedish general elections but as they prepare to vote on September 20, Swedes are saying they are no longer happy to lose more than half their wages to support the country's showpiece welfare state.

"We are seeing a fundamental change in the attitude towards tax," Per Olofsson, managing director of the Confederation of Swedish Industries, told Reuters.

"We have the highest taxes in the world but this is not backed up by the highest growth rates or job creation and people are realising this," Sweden traditionally has had very low rates of

unemployment but the number of people out of work has increased since the late 1980s, and now stands at about eight per cent excluding people on government retraining programmes.

"People are getting annoyed about the number of people who are living off benefits or taking black market jobs and cheating the system," Olofsson said.

"This is a deterrent to people seeking jobs. We need to make a bigger difference between working and living off subsidies," The Swedish Tax Board has estimated that black market jobs, false tax declarations and errors in tax returns cost the state about \$10-11 billion a year.

This works out at about nine per cent of total annual income tax with Swedes paying around \$100 billion in tax last year.

In the run-up to the election, held every four years, pollsters asked samples of Sweden's 6.5 million voters what they saw as the most important election issues.

A Gallup poll in mid-August found voters listed employment and health care as the key issues with tax coming seventh.

Although the level of Swedish taxes would be unacceptable in many countries, the pressure for tax cuts in Sweden is much weaker than in the United States or Britain.

All working Swedes pay a minimum 30 per cent of their income to local authorities plus

eight per cent for pensions. Those earning over 20,000 crowns a month pay an additional 25 per cent state tax.

On top of this comes a kind of 25 per cent consumption or value added tax, known as MOMS, which is put on almost all goods and services.

Susanne Ackum-Agell, head of the Office of Labour Market Policy Evaluation, said about 17 per cent of Swedes paid the maximum tax rate. "Swedes are among the highest taxed in the world, alongside other countries like Denmark," she said.

OECD figures based on 1996 revenues put Denmark at the top of the global tax league, with a tax burden of 52.2 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) against an average of 37.7 per cent.

Sweden followed a close second with 52 per cent.

Preliminary OECD figures for 1997 show this burden rising to 53.3 per cent of GDP in Sweden which could make Sweden top of the tax table.

But a recent opinion poll on taxation, conducted by pollster SIFO between August 24-27, found 58 per cent of men and 43 per cent of women were in favour of tax cuts. Only 35 per cent of Swedes opposed them if it meant lower social benefits.

The poll showed 57 per cent of supporters of Sweden's ruling Social Democratic Party (SDP) opposed tax cuts while 36 per cent were in favour. Some 82 per cent of opposition or Moderate Party supporters favoured tax cuts.

The Swedes who are happy to hand over a huge part of their income to support the welfare system want to see more spent on it.

This may seem surprising when government expenditure last year accounted for 62 per cent of GDP.

But most taxpayers are also welfare recipients and are willing to pay for good child-care centres and lavish pensions.

Newly re-elected Prime Minister Goran Persson, did not promise any tax cuts in his election pledges, instead, his party, the Social Democrats, vowed to increase spending on social programmes, particularly child care and pensions.

Years of painful fiscal tightening have started to erode the welfare system.

The umbrella union group, LO, which is an integral part of the Social Democratic movement, is campaigning against further cuts in welfare provision for disadvantaged groups such as the unemployed and single parents.

"We have high levels of taxation in Sweden because we have high ambitions in our welfare policy," Persson said in the SDP's election manifesto that unveiled a nine billion crown spend-

ing package.

"When there is room for lowering taxes after paying off the public debt, improving quality in health care, schools and welfare services, improving pensions and raising the economic standard of families with children, our ambition must be to take further steps towards greater justice and equality."

"The tax system must contribute to reducing social divisions in society."

Nevertheless, Sweden's main opposition party, the conservative Moderates, led by former prime minister Carl Bildt, campaigned on tax cuts saying they would create more jobs.

"As things stand today, we are paying the world's highest taxes but do not have the world's best welfare," Bildt said in an election programme.

"The political system deprives citizens of a record share of their incomes but is incapable of delivering the legal security, the medical care and the education which citizens are entitled to demand."

The Moderates proposed a top tax limit of 50 per cent, a 12 per cent tax deduction for low and medium income earners, reduction of real property tax, less tax on pension savings and less tax on petrol and domestic services.

## Environment

### Mexican coast seeks tourist cash

By Michael Christie  
Reuters

THE CAPITAL of Mexico's south-eastern state of Quintana Roo has seen better days. Ramshackle taxis rattle along potholed roads, dirty water laps against the deserted quay, and anyone who does not work for the state government probably does not work at all. Yet on a spit of land across the bay, Caribbean waves break lazily on an unspoiled white-sand beach while, further out, a turquoise sea flutters over sun-drenched coral reefs.

If officials have their way, this pristine southern coast, known as the "Costa Maya" (Mayan Coast), will soon follow the lead of the state's northern shores and begin luring droves of foreigners with dollars and deutschmarks to help feed Chetumal's poor.

"Tourism will be our salvation," said William Souza Calderon, deputy director of state tourism agency Fidecarbe.

Quintana Roo is no stranger to tourism. The purpose-built resort of Cancun, since it was constructed in the north of the state in the 1970s, has become one of Mexico's main holiday destinations, drawing millions of foreigners every year. But the southern part of the state, where the local government is based, has suffered benign neglect, losing its status as a "free port" exempt from retail tax several years ago and sinking slowly ever since into a tropical slum.

Once they know it they will fall in love in August, Gov. Mario Villameva Madrid launched the "Ruta de la Aventura Maya" (Route of the Mayan Adventure), saying promotion was key for the plan because "once people get to know the Costa Maya they will fall in love with it."

The project envisages the construction of roads, three small airports, a jetty for cruise liners and a string of hotels on a virtually undeveloped strip of coast running from the Sian Ka'an nature reserve to Mexico's border with Belize.

The state government forecasts \$19 million in public sector infrastructure investment and some \$6 million in investment by private hotel owners, scuba diving schools and marine sports centres along the mangrove-lined beach.

Thirty kilometres out to sea lies the breathtaking beauty of the Banco Chichonoro coral reef, which, rising suddenly from 1,000-metre deep waters, is home to hundreds of species of fish and seabirds and a shallow grave to at least a dozen wrecks, some of them galleons once laden with Peruvian silver.

Officials say they do not aim to develop the Mayan Coast to the same extent as the north, where glitzy resorts like Cancun, Playa del Carmen and the island of Cozumel cater to package tours and billions of dollars are being invested in new monster beach hotels by international chains like Spain's Sol Melia.

"The idea is not to compete," Souza told Reuters in an interview in Fidecarbe's rundown offices in a Chetumal suburb. "We're thinking more of adventure tourism, eco-tourism." Party-seekers will go elsewhere, the state hopes to attract hardy "eco-archeo-tourists" interested in scuba diving, tranquillity and ancient Mayan history. The "spring-breakers" and party-seekers who flock to Cancun's discos and bars are unlikely to be attracted by the spartan simplicity planned for the south.

Miguel Sosa Huerta, a biologist working at Fidecarbe, said authorities were determined to carry out thorough environmental impact studies and ensure development was kept as ecologically friendly as possible, especially near the Chichonoro reef, which has been declared a protected area.

Local environmentalists are supportive, arguing that as long as the law is respected eco-tourism could indeed mean much-needed food on the table for the region's mainly impoverished Mayan Indian population. "We can't possibly oppose development because the whole coast of Quintana Roo has a clear tourist vocation," said Concepcion Molina, coastal planning director for environmental pressure group Amigos de Sian Ka'an (Friends of Sian Ka'an), which has been helping the state government come up with new laws to protect the coral reef and the coast.

"Sure, there are always ecological dangers," Molina acknowledged. But for southern Quintana Roo there are few alternatives, officials say. The soil is poor and overfishing has already reduced fish and lobster stocks drastically.

A small number of shoppers from neighbouring Belize, where most goods are more expensive, keeps Chetumal's stores going, but there is no industry in the state capital and the government is the principal employer.

Yet tourism can also bring new problems. In Playa del Carmen, five hours drive to the north, locals have quite simply been priced out of town by big-spending foreigners.

"Now we have to even pay dollars to get into the nature reserves. These places used to belong to Mexicans," taxi driver Manuel said with a frown.

### Mountain gorillas thrive despite perils

By Simon Denyer  
Reuters

DEEP IN the heart of Uganda's only rainforest reserve, a large male silverback gorilla peers disdainfully through the thick bush.

The object of his gaze — a small group of Western tourists who have trekked for four hours through the forest for this glimpse of one of the world's last surviving mountain gorillas.

For a while gorilla and tourist study each other. Then, his curiosity satisfied, the silverback stretches out to resume his afternoon snooze, with one careful eye on the intruders.

Only around 620 mountain gorillas survive, making them one of the world's most endangered species. They are split into two roughly equal groups, one in the relative safety of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in south-west Uganda.

The other has a more precarious existence around the Virunga volcanoes, in a series of three linked national parks straddling the corners of Uganda, Rwanda and the former Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Instability in Rwanda and the Congo poses a major threat to that population.

"The population is very threatened right now," said Annette Lanjouw, regional coordinator for the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP), which provides technical assistance to the three governments.

"There are problems with rebels, namely the (Rwandan Hutu) Interahamwe, who are using the park to move across in the Rwandan region," she said. "In May last year, at least 10 animals were killed because they were caught in the crossfire between the military and the rebels."

But rebels are not the only threat to the mountain gorilla, whose contact with humans has long been an unhappy one.

Gorillas, like chimpanzees, share about 98 per cent of their genetic material, or DNA, with humans. That makes them very suscep-

tible to a whole range of human diseases — but without human immune systems, even a simple cold or flu could threaten a gorilla group.

Tourists are kept to at least five metres from the gorillas they encounter, and are barred from tracking if they have a cold. Even so, some conservationists argue that tourism is a major threat to the species.

"There are a lot of people who don't believe in gorilla tourism," said Lanjouw. "We argue that if you don't have tourists, you wouldn't be able to protect them at all."

A maximum of six tourists are allowed to visit a "habituated" gorilla group every day, and stay for just one hour. Each foreign visitor pays \$180 for the experience, on top of the \$20 park entrance fee.

The income generated finances the gorilla parks and also subsidises other, less-visited parks in the three countries.

Before civil war broke out in Rwanda in the early 1990s, gorilla tourism was the country's third-highest foreign exchange earner, behind tea and coffee.

American researcher Dian Fossey brought mountain gorillas international fame, with her efforts to protect them from poachers the subject of the Hollywood film "Gorillas in the Mist."

Fossey spent 13 years in Rwanda studying the gorillas and habituating them to humans before her murder in 1985. Today, her legacy has been taken up by the IGCP.

It takes around 18 months to habituate gorilla groups to human contact. Initially, trackers see little more than a disturbance in the thick bush before the primates move off.

Gradually, by imitating the grunting of a satisfied gorilla, they narrow the distance the animals are comfortable with — but not without the occasional run-in.

"When they charge, you remain submissive, you don't move a step, you keep your eyes looking down as much as possible," said Sampson Werikhe, IGCP's deputy programme

director in Uganda.

"They come as close as five metres. They are really threatening, pulling down branches and hitting their chests... but when they find you are not responding, they just walk away," he said.

Just two groups are currently "receiving visitors" in Bwindi. The second was only opened to tourists a few months ago, with a maximum of just four visitors a day for the time being.

A third habituated group crossed into the Congo earlier this year, moving into a small and unprotected forest near the border. They are now back in the park, but having split

into smaller groups, are no longer considered good targets for tourism.

Habituation poses its own problems. Gorillas who have lost their fear of humans can be a menace to the villagers surrounding the reserves.

"Since they have become habituated, gorillas sometimes leave the park and go into people's fields," said Lanjouw.

"They rip the banana trees down and eat the pith inside the stem. A family can totally destroy a whole banana plantation in just one afternoon."

Despite all the problems, and the lack of a census in the Virungas since 1989, conservationists say the population is stable.

Experts even talk of a "baby boom" in the past 18 months, with at least 10 births recorded in the five habituated groups who live in the Congo.

Lanjouw says that is a normal birth-rate, but is nevertheless encouraging in groups traumatised by recent events in the region.

In mid-1995, a silverback male, called Luwawa, was killed in the Congo. His replacement as head of the group, Kabirizi, has been busy — his females have born him five young since March this year.

Bwindi is the only safe and reliable place in the world to see mountain gorillas in the wild, and waiting lists often stretch for up to a year.

Visitors to Mgahinga National Park, the Ugandan portion of the Virunga range, have to take their chances. With gorillas not respecting international boundaries, their presence in that tiny corner of Uganda cannot be guaranteed.

Nor is it wise to cross into Rwanda or the Congo to follow them. A group of six tourists was attacked by Hutu rebels just inside Congo last month.

So far, three of those tourists remain in rebel captivity — a stark reminder of the unstable environment in which mountain gorillas have found their only remaining home.



### When an elephant has to die...

In many game reserves animals multiply beyond the park's carrying capacity. To cut down on the numbers of elephants, the larger herds are culled. But as Dawn Muir reports, the methods used have caused much soul-searching among conservationists.

HELICOPTERS FLY over the bush, shooting darts into the herd of elephants below. The young are darted with a painless drug called M99 which puts them to sleep within five to ten minutes.

Another drug, Scoline, is used to immobilise the adults. It paralyses the muscles, but leaves them conscious and aware of everything that is taking place around them — the killings and traumatised howling of the young as they run around witnessing the slaughter.

M99 is not used on adults because it leaves a residue in the meat which makes it unsuitable for human consumption. Meat sales provide a useful income for the parks so the painful Scoline is used because it does not leave a residue.

Wildlife naturalists, like Daphne Sheldrick who has lived among the elephant herds of Kenya's Tsavo Reserve for nearly 40 years, are concerned about the welfare of these noble animals.

She says elephants are sensitive, caring creatures which experience the same emotions as humans. Their development is similar to ours and their memories span a lifetime.

Elephants have a strong sense of family with the females organised into groups which bond together for life. Each group is led by a matriarch, usually the oldest cow.

Sheldrick believes elephants have a sense of death, having observed the deeply moving reaction of a group of elephants to the death of one of their own.

The huge animals become silent and the only sound to be heard is that of a soft blowing of air from their trunks as they investigate their dead. They use their toe nails and soles of their feet to touch gently the body.

Sometimes they cover the bodies with leaves and branches, returning to the site for years after.

Elephants are also capable of compassion that extends beyond their own kind. Joyce Poole describes one such inci-



dent in her book Coming of Age with Elephants when a ranch herder in Kenya was charged by a matriarch who broke his leg.

When the elephant realised he could not walk, she gently moved him to a shady tree, using her front feet and trunk, and guarded him all afternoon and into the next day. Her family left, but she stayed on, occasionally touching the man gently with her trunk.

When a herd of buffalo approached, she chased them away. It was as if she had taken it upon herself to protect him.

Needless to say, the rescue party had a great deal of difficulty getting near the herder, finally driving the matriarch off by shooting over her head.

Meanwhile, conservationists have also realised that juveniles who have been relocated to other national parks to re-establish elephant populations are causing immense problems.

They become psychotic and turn into rogues, damaging crops and terrorising villagers. A generation of delinquents has grown from the young male orphans who were culled from

Kruger Park in 1977.

These male elephants are killing white rhinoceros — an endangered species — in South Africa's Pilansberg National Park. Gus van Dyke, the monitoring officer, says they knock the rhino to the ground, kneel on the unfortunate creature and then gore it to death.

Elephants have killed 30 rhino over the last three years in Pilansberg. Another eight rhino have been killed in the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Park in KwaZulu-Natal.

Human lives are being lost as well. A professional hunter was trampled to death last July in Pilansberg when trying to destroy a bull elephant which had attacked tourists' cars and rhino.

The elephants are socially maladjusted because they failed to integrate with other herds in their new environment and grew up outside the normal hierarchy of elephant bulls.

This hierarchy is essential for a healthy elephant society. The dominant bull is usually the biggest, oldest and strongest bull and provides a guiding hand and discipline to the younger generation.

Pilansberg is considering introducing big bulls into the park in the hope that they will put the juveniles in their place.

Kruger Park has called a halt to the annual elephant cull and will translocate only whole elephant families in the future.

Researchers are continuing to search for ways to control elephant populations. Contraceptive hormonal implants are being tested on small herds, but with limited success.

The hormonal odour excreted by the female causes a social unbalancing of the group and she becomes alienated.

Another proposal is to anaesthetise and humanely kill female groups which are not yet of breeding age. The one-off cull spares the matriarch and her successors and leaves the family unit basically intact.

In the meantime if culling is to be continued, scientists would do well to develop a drug which brings about pain-free euthanasia and at the same time leaves no residue in the meat.

— Gemini News



# IMF warns of 'significant risks' on international capital markets

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The IMF warned Monday that global capital markets face major risks such as paralysis in Japan, overvalued U.S. and European stock markets and prospects for even broader financial instability.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in an annual report, predicted that unless Japan acted decisively to shore up its banking sector and stimulate its economy, a new round of Asian currency turbulence could be set in motion.

In addition, a sharp correction in the stock markets of the United States and Europe would further dampen recovery efforts in emerging economies.

The study carried out by the IMF staff focused on developments through last July, according to Charles Adams, assistant director of the Fund's research department.

"Several of the risks we've identified in this

report have subsequently materialised," Adams told a press conference here, noting that the study was completed before the Russian economy neared collapse, Latin America came under threat and world stock prices plunged.

"We're now looking at a broader crisis in emerging capital markets than we were only a couple of months ago."

In its conclusion, the report warns that "the current situation in the international capital markets contains a number of significant risks and uncertainties, as well as the possibility of heightened volatility and large asset price corrections in the period ahead."

It said that private capital flows to emerging markets registered a sharp, \$67 billion contraction last year, the first such decline this decade, as investors steered clear of troubled Asian economies.

The fund also highlighted the profoundly

destabilising effects of large and sudden swings in capital flows to emerging markets.

In some instances, it said, countries might have to impose temporary controls — in the form of taxes — to reduce their vulnerability to the effects of short-term capital investment.

Such a step should complement improved data dissemination on emerging market conditions, as a means of improving investor behaviour, as well as initiatives to establish strong regulatory and supervisory systems.

The IMF was blunt in its insistence that Japan move quickly to reform its banking sector, currently riddled with bad loans, and boost growth.

"The failure of Japan to deal promptly and more forcefully with its banking and financial sector problems is contributing to significant domestic economic weakness and downward pressure on the yen, risking significant spillovers and another round of Asian currency

turmoil," the report warned.

The study in addition cited the potentially damaging impact of a dramatic correction in U.S. stock values.

"U.S. stock prices are even more overvalued now than they were one or two years ago, and especially in light of the slowdown in earnings growth that has already taken place, the current phase of the business cycle and the likelihood of further fallout from Asia," the report pointed out.

A severe correction could aggravate "weaknesses in the Japanese economic and financial system ... and make the risk of spillovers more worrisome than usual."

Adams observed that markets in the United States and Europe were now experiencing "some correction, some fall-back" from stock valuations he said had been "difficult to rationalise."

Asia, from 1994 to 1996 the largest recipient of private capital flows to emerging markets, registered a drop-off of nearly \$100 billion last year to \$13.9 billion.

Private capital flows to all emerging markets in 1997 fell \$67 billion to \$173.7 billion, according to the IMF, which groups developing countries, countries in transition and Hong Kong, Israel, South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan in its definition of emerging markets.

Bucking the downward trend was foreign direct investment, which grew by 20 per cent last year to \$138 billion, according to the IMF.

Most of the decline in total capital flows to Asia was concentrated in the countries hardest hit by financial weakness, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia and South Korea, where inflows of \$73 billion in 1996 were replaced by net outflows of \$11 billion.

## Egypt says reforms improving investment climate

CAIRO (R) — Finance Minister Mohamed El Ghazali said Egypt's fiscal and trade reforms were creating better conditions for foreign direct investment.

"Egypt will always work to liberalise trade. It is a must to improve the investment climate," Ghazali told a conference in Cairo. "Our intention in the future is not to increase taxes, but rather whenever it is possible, to reduce tax burdens on individuals and companies."

Antoine Basile, an adviser to the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), said that despite increasing liberalisation, the Arab World had a comparatively small share of world foreign direct investment, which UNCTAD put at \$349 billion in 1996.

Economists at the conference put the Arab World's share at about two per cent and said markets needed to open up more.

"The infrastructure in terms of legal reform and economic reforms and the culture of liberalisation work together to make the inflow slower than we would hope it to be," Mona Zulficar, a lawyer for Sha-

lakany Law Office in Egypt, told a seminar.

Egypt is trying to liberalise its economy and attract foreign private capital as part of economic reforms.

It recently passed a new investment incentives law which grants tax holidays to companies investing in sectors Egypt regards as economic priorities, such as export enhancement.

Investors in free zone areas enjoy a full tax holiday except for one per cent "which is the value-added on industrial production, which is very minor," Ghazali said, adding that stock market transactions were tax-free.

He said the government wanted individual sales tax to be as efficient as that of developed countries. "It might take some time to reach that, however this is the ultimate aim," he said.

As part of efforts to reduce domestic debt, Ghazali said the government had started issuing tax-free seven-year maturity bonds at 10 per cent on a month-to-month basis. Two such issues took place in August and September.

## U.S. trade official says Asia must stick to reforms

MANILA (R) — A senior U.S. trade official has said Asian countries need to stand by economic reforms to survive the region's financial crisis and move on.

"There is no doubt the region will recover ... But recovery will not be easy. It will require a serious, sustained commitment to trade liberalisation and structural reform," U.S. Undersecretary for International Trade David Aaron told members of the American Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines.

"The bottom line is that those who stick with reform programmes will come out of the crisis ahead of the competition," he said.

Aaron said the region would not regain its health until Japan acted to fix its banking system and implement other reforms.

Japan accounts for about 70 per cent of Asia's gross domestic product (GDP), he said.

He said the crisis in Asia is a classic example of "boom and bust."

"Capitalism is a system of

profit and losses. And, this is exactly why capitalism works — it punishes bad decisions," he emphasised.

Aaron said Asia should work on four priority trade issues, including pushing for trade pacts at the November summit of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, completing negotiations on the first Information Technology Agreement, addressing the millennium bug problem and developing a favourable environment for electronic commerce.

He urged the Philippines to help develop a new trade agreement dubbed the "Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalisation" that will advance trade liberalisation and help counter protectionist measures.

Aaron said negotiations for expanding the first Information Technology Agreement should be finalised to pave the way for lower tariffs on electrical and information technology equipment in 44 countries and to improve market access to these goods.

He said the crisis in Asian economies, previously the main driving force behind rising oil demand, was unlikely to prove short-term.

"Can the tiger economies grow at previous rates? This is unlikely," Yamani told the conference, organised jointly with CW Associates.

He said Japan's structural problems could take a decade to resolve.

Policies to combat global warming, though unlikely to be fully ratified, could also hit demand for oil.

Yamani said the combination of low economic growth and rising taxation on petroleum products were not favourable for the future of the oil industry.

Will OPEC manage to hold together or will it fall apart leading to oil price wars and extreme price instability?

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Will OPEC manage to

## Yamani sees low oil prices, OPEC floundering

LONDON (R) — Oil prices set to remain weak for the foreseeable future and could cause producer group OPEC to fall apart, former Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Zaki Yamani has said.

"Some are saying that current price weakness cannot persist."

"These hopes look overly optimistic," Yamani told an energy conference organised by his Global Centre for Energy Studies think tank and CW Associates.

"I'm not sure OPEC will be able to remain intact. Members' interests are

diverging and their ability to influence the market has become eroded," he said.

Yamani warned that the demise of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could lead to "oil price wars and extreme price instability."

Will OPEC manage to hold together or will it fall apart leading to oil price wars and extreme price instability?

Yamani said the combination of low economic growth and rising taxation on petroleum products were not favourable for the future of the oil industry.

Will OPEC manage to

hold together or will it fall apart leading to oil price wars and extreme price instability?

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Will OPEC manage to

## Romanian government imposes taxes to make extra revenue

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Seeking to fill the country's empty coffers, the government has said it would levy extra taxes on goods from cigarettes to newspapers.

For the past months, the government has been looking for ways to bring in extra revenue to prevent a steep downturn in the economy, which likely will shrink by four per cent this year, a government official said.

Foreign and domestic investment has stalled

due to uncertainties about stalled market reforms and political feuding. Purchasing power has declined and the Romanian currency, the lei, has been overvalued in recent years.

An extra tax of three per cent will be slapped on all imports and excise taxes for cigarettes and alcohol will be doubled, to try and rein in the 1998 budget deficit, the government said.

It will also apply an 11 per cent value added tax

to books and publications, which has caused outrage among publishers.

Previously, they were exempt from the value added tax.

The measures come into effect on Oct. 1. Budget expenditures were also slashed by lei 7.5 trillion (\$833 million), a measure needed to keep the deficit at four per cent, said Dan Radu Rusanu, a state secretary at the ministry of finance.

## SOS to set up new village in Irbid

A NEW SOS village will be established in Irbid, north of Jordan. It will be the third after Amman and Aqaba village. Her Majesty Queen Noor will lay the foundation stone for the third SOS children's village. Her Majesty's blessing was granted to build the Irbid village during the 10th anniversary on the establishment of SOS children's village in Amman which was attended by Helmut Kutin, president of SOS Kinderdorf International.

A decision was also taken by SOS Kinderdorf International to establish a home for retired SOS mothers who worked at the village. The project is to ensure the future of SOS mothers who worked in SOS village in Jordan, after the age of retirement, and to honour the role of mothers who dedicated their lives to serve children entrusted to them. They will also be given retirement salaries and health insurance. The decision will motivate the mother to offer more due to her feeling of stability and security.

SOS Children's Village Association of Jordan provides Jordanian abandoned children with the best possible substitute for homes and families they have lost. There are now 204 children in Amman and Aqaba villages. There are also nine boys in the boys' youth house and 13 in the girls' youth house. It is worth noting that 20 youth have already graduated from SOS Jordan, out of which three got married, while others have already joined their natural families or relatives.

The agreement for constructing the third SOS village in Jordan was signed, by Lina Kopti, representative of SOS Kinderdorf International, Ali Krayim, chairman of the SOS Children's Village Association of Jordan, and Elie Banayan and Nader Dahdal, representatives of the Engineering Enterprise Co., who will execute the construction of the village.

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**THE Daily Crossword** Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS  
1 Bennett of Random House  
5 Post-season games  
10 Incline  
14 Two-load sloth  
15 Join together  
16 Klugeau flow  
17 Start of Swift quote  
20 Lukewarm  
21 Pat  
22 Asserter  
25 Inquire  
26 Back of the Space Shuttle  
29 Divided in two  
30 Knight's lady  
31 Glob ending?  
32 City on the Ruhr  
33 Mrs. Nick Charles  
34 Chills and fever  
35 Middle of the quote  
38 British Conservative  
39 Tied  
40 Religious Jamaican, for short  
42 Altar of stars  
43 Fodder  
44 Made lace  
45 Equivalent wd.  
46 Go astray  
47 Handgun  
48 Bikini part  
49 Witch town  
50 End of the quote  
57 Scent  
58 Still in existence  
59 —do well  
60 Do some gardening  
61 "The Dresser" director Peter  
62 TV-dinner holder

DOWN  
1 Dramatic signal abbr.  
3 Actress  
4 Dawn Chong

4 In secret  
5 Jostled  
6 Broadcasting  
7 Moving air  
8 Inc. in London  
9 Sower  
10 Superficially fluent  
11 Shell propeller  
12 Latin greeting  
13 Marx work, "Capital"  
18 Aden native  
19 Rice beverage  
22 Cohort of Fidel  
23 S. Martin movie  
24 Other finisher  
25 Hammerin' Hank  
26 Maine capital  
27 Flap rapidly  
28 Golf gadget  
30 Met (out)  
33 At no time  
34 Reduction in taxes  
36 Stray off course  
37 2nd best  
38 Sch. trainees  
41 Nav. leader

PANSY MADD ABET  
ELATE ACLU DEMO  
COMETOTHTINKOFLIT  
KEEP GTE CAROLIE  
SERE METERED  
ELMORE REEDE  
SEUL GAMA TWA  
MATTEROFOPINION  
EPH HUTS RAMON  
EASELS HOTELS  
FORGOOD TONT  
ECLATS PIP VIPS  
WHATSTHEBIGIDEA  
ERNE AONE ATEAM  
REDS TENT DYERS

43 Simple plant  
44 N-toppers in Spanish  
47 Ointment  
48 Shakespeare, for one  
49 Business outfit  
50 At this time  
51 Keats opus

52 Howard of the Three Stooges  
53 Cup or pay attachment?  
54 "the ramparts"  
56 Pastoral pasture  
56 Parched

**Peanuts**

HEY, MARCIE, HOW SOON BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS AGAIN?

I MAY HAVE TO BORROW SOME NOTEBOOK PAPER AND THINGS...

SO HOW SOON BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS?

DO YOU HAVE A CALENDAR?

A WHAT?

**Andy Capp**

YOUR MUM-IN-LAW IS BEING A BIT TOO REFINED TO HAVE ANYTHING IN COMMON WITH YOUR MUM-IN-LAW...

SHE STRUCK ME AS BEING A BIT TOO REFINED TO HAVE ANYTHING IN COMMON WITH YOUR MUM-IN-LAW...

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, YOUR MUM-IN-LAW WAS DOING WEST OF THE TALKING...

NOVEN JUST LOVE TO TALK, AND AND YOUR MUM-IN-LAW WAS DOING WEST OF THE TALKING...

MAKE A CHANGE

**Mutt'n'Jeff**

I THOUGHT YOU SAID THAT HORSE COULD SEE!

OH, HE CAN!

WELL, IF HE CAN SEE WHY DID HE HEEDLESSLY RUN INTO THAT TREE?

HE JUST DOESN'T GIVE A DAMN!

**THE BETTER HALF.** By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN

"I read that computer geeks make lousy husbands. Every two years they want to upgrade to a better wife."

**JUMBLE** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By Henri Arnold and Mike Arghon

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SPUHL  
BOYTO  
NOPPIL  
HYCTOU

Answer here: A     OF     (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: JADED FAVOR ARTFUL DEBATE Answer: Easy "see" after too much champagne — DOUBLE

WHAT THE MYSTERY WRITER FOUND IN THE CEMETERY.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.







# Commonwealth Games

## Boldon provides the Prozac for depressed organisers

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Ato Boldon may have only spent four days at the Games but for the organisers the intensely spiritual Trinidadian was a godsend for he gave the competition something it was lacking — a genuine star.

The distance runners probably would have wished that the Kenyan men had decided to stay away because they cleaned up in every distance race and apart from the 1500 won gold and silver when they had two runners and all three medals when they had a full complement.

The organisers were always on the back foot from the moment they gave in to IAAF President Primo Nebiolo and moved their athletics dates to later in the week so it would not clash with the Italian's grandiose World Cup.

However, their gamble did not pay off as a whole host of athletes seemed to be gripped by fatigue and cried off.

These defections hurt the credibility of the competition as they included 110 metres hurdles world record holder Colin Jackson and Jamaican Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion Deon Hemmings.

"I feel tired after a long season and after winning the European title I am not capable of running another championship event," said Jackson, who like all the other absentees turned up at the prizemoney laden IAAF Grand Prix in Tokyo on the last Saturday of the Games — the day of his discipline's semi-finals.

Their prima donna antics contrasted to the awful sight of 50 kilometre walker Craig Barrett, who competes for nothing, seeing gold snatched from his chest just a kilometre from the finish.

The 26-year-old out on his own since the 25 km mark collapsed three times and was taken to the medical centre where he lay screaming in frustration that the crowning achievement of his life had been stolen from him.

If there is that mythical God, that so many athletes dedicate their success to in monotonous fashion, then he wasn't with Barrett on the last Monday of the Games.

If that was the human side of the Games then Boldon added the superstar status that so many of his fellow stars felt unnecessary to donate to the 'Friendly Games'.

This time he backed up his usual all talk and all conquering promises with the right response on the track.

He ran a blistering 9.88 seconds to leave Frankie Fredericks, whose fit of sensitive pique over a supposed slur by his Namibian Prime Minister had forced him to pull out originally, with yet another silver medal and broke Linford Christie's Games record.

"I always deliver on my promises, that's the kind of person I am," said Boldon to a slightly bemused audience, who remembered several broken ones in recent years.

Sadly for the sparse crowds at the magnificent 100,000 seater stadium Ato and Frankie bid farewell the next

Final Commonwealth Games medal table

|                | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|----------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| Australia      | 80   | 60     | 58     | 198   |
| England        | 36   | 47     | 53     | 136   |
| Canada         | 30   | 31     | 38     | 99    |
| Malaysia       | 10   | 14     | 12     | 36    |
| South Africa   | 9    | 11     | 15     | 35    |
| New Zealand    | 8    | 7      | 19     | 34    |
| India          | 7    | 10     | 8      | 25    |
| Kenya          | 7    | 5      | 4      | 16    |
| Jamaica        | 4    | 2      | 0      | 6     |
| Wales          | 3    | 4      | 8      | 15    |
| Scotland       | 3    | 2      | 7      | 12    |
| Nauru          | 3    | 0      | 0      | 3     |
| N. Ireland     | 2    | 1      | 2      | 5     |
| Zimbabwe       | 2    | 0      | 3      | 5     |
| Ghana          | 1    | 1      | 3      | 5     |
| Cyprus         | 1    | 1      | 1      | 3     |
| Mauritius      | 1    | 1      | 1      | 3     |
| Tanzania       | 1    | 1      | 1      | 3     |
| Trin. & Tobago | 1    | 1      | 0      | 2     |
| Bahamas        | 1    | 1      | 0      | 2     |
| Mozambique     | 1    | 0      | 0      | 1     |
| Barbados       | 1    | 0      | 2      | 3     |
| Lesotho        | 1    | 0      | 0      | 1     |
| Cameroon       | 0    | 3      | 3      | 6     |
| Namibia        | 0    | 2      | 1      | 3     |
| Seychelles     | 0    | 2      | 0      | 2     |
| Sri Lanka      | 0    | 1      | 1      | 2     |
| Bermuda        | 0    | 1      | 0      | 1     |
| Fiji           | 0    | 1      | 0      | 1     |
| Isle of Man    | 0    | 1      | 0      | 1     |
| Pakistan       | 0    | 1      | 0      | 1     |
| P. New Guinea  | 0    | 0      | 1      | 1     |
| Uganda         | 0    | 0      | 1      | 1     |
| Zambia         | 0    | 0      | 1      | 1     |

day unable to put on what would have been a great showdown in the 200 metres. Fredericks giving a succinct explanation.

"I have to go to Tokyo because my sponsors demand it," the 31-year-old Namibian said.

There was an obscene sideshow to the 100 metres where the people who have vainly searched for the first white man to break 10 seconds fell upon Australian teenager Matt Shirvington, who has risen from being second reserve on the world junior relay team two years ago to fourth in the 100 metres final here.

"I wish he would break the 10 second barrier and then people would stop asking me about it," an exasperated Boldon said.

Away from the musclebound fast-talking sprinters the 400 metres men's race produced a superb battle and in the winner Iwan Thomas a genuine talent who will push the ageing Michael Johnson hard over the next few years.

Thomas, who had won the World Cup race on the Sunday flew in on Tuesday and ran four races in three days to take gold and break the eight-year-old Games record, made it clear where his priorities lay between the money and representing your country.

"Athletics isn't solely about individuals it's also running for a team," the 24-year-old recently crowned European champion said.

Thomas' victory rounded off a miserable championships season for arch-rival Mark Richardson, who took

bronze in the Europeans and a silver here, and the tag 'choker' hangs over him, a man who is superb in the Grand Prix, he beat Johnson in Oslo, but finds finals too pressurised.

While Richardson struggles with the nearly man tag another Englishman ended his years of near misses when Tony Jarrett, who had won 13 minor medals in championships, finally won gold in the 110 metres hurdles.

If there was one man who should have been happy that Jackson had stayed away it would have been Jarrett, but even he wasn't over the moon.

"I was not pleased because he put extra pressure on me by making me the clear favourite," Jarrett said.

There was a first Commonwealth title for Maria Mutola and the former Portuguese colony of Mozambique, with England's Diane Modahl winning bronze and compensation for the four years of hell she endured after being sent home from the 1994 Games falsely accused of taking drugs.

"I haven't celebrated my wedding anniversary for four years but tonight I'm going to dress up on my stillettos and party!" the 32-year-old said.

Her nightmare may be ending but for the Commonwealth Games Federation their's is just starting because with no prizemoney to offer it will need more than a Boldon to keep their blue riband event alive, and television does not pay millions to cover lawn bowls and ten pin bowling.

## Fireworks leave Queen speechless

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Queen Elizabeth II was left speechless here on Monday as she stood to formally close the Commonwealth Games.

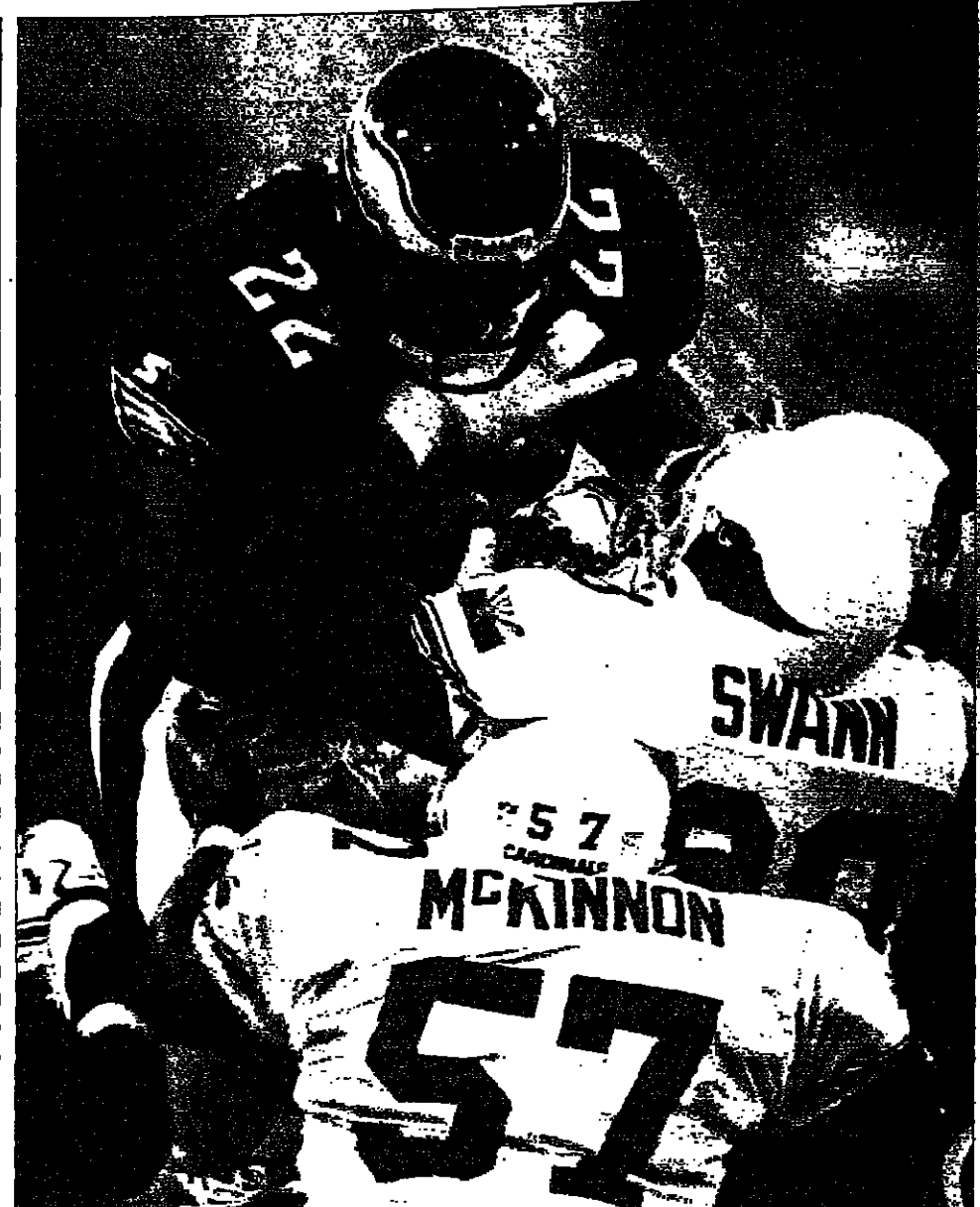
Before she could begin to talk, fireworks lit up the sky over the stadium, leaving her standing waiting for the show to end.

In the official programme the firework display was supposed to herald the end of her speech but they exploded in a deafening display before she could begin.

The Queen stood patiently until silence descended before announcing the Games closed.

"In the name of the Commonwealth Games Federation I proclaim the 16th Commonwealth Games, Kuala Lumpur '98 closed. I call upon the sportsmen and sportswomen of the Commonwealth to assemble in four years time in Great Britain to celebrate the 17th Commonwealth Games," she declared.

The 2002 Games will be hosted by Manchester.



Philadelphia Eagles running back Duce Staley (22) is stopped short of a first down by Arizona Cardinals middle linebacker Ronald McKinnon (57), and defensive tackle Eric Swann (98), on a third down play in the second quarter (Reuters photo)

## Dolphins blank Steelers in battle of NFL unbeatens

MIAMI (AFP) — Kordell Stewart and the Pittsburgh Steelers learned the hard way not to trifle with the Miami Dolphins' defence.

Miami linebacker Zach Thomas returned an interception 17 yards for a touchdown and cornerback Sam Madison picked off two passes in a 21-0 romp over Pittsburgh in a battle of American football unbeateners here Sunday.

The Dolphins' first shutout in six years made them one of six National Football League teams to start 3-0, joining reigning Super Bowl champion Denver plus Jacksonville, Minnesota, Green Bay and Seattle.

Stewart appeared confused by Miami's varying defensive coverages and completed only 11 of 35 passes for 82 yards and three interceptions.

"The big concern we had with Kordell was we had to keep him in the pocket," Dolphins coach Jimmy Johnson said. "We didn't want to do anything with our pass rush that's going to allow him to run. We tried to collapse the pocket and surround him."

"Obviously, this was not our best day," Stewart said. "Things were not clicking. We got our backs kicked. Plain and simple. You have to give credit to the defense."

The Steelers have struggled on offense despite a 2-1 start and critics aroused the ire of Pittsburgh coach Bill Cowher after the club's first shutout loss in five years.

"That was an extremely poor display of offensive football," Cowher said. "Miami played good defense, but we played poor offensively. We will get this thing turned around."

"I'm not going to wallow in self pity. Whatever it takes to get it done, we will get it done."

The Dolphins improved to 3-0 for the fourth time in five years and are 13-4 in September since 1994. Miami had not blanked a

foe since winning 28-0 at Indianapolis in 1992.

"It was just a situation where we couldn't get anything going and it happens," said Steeler Jerome Bettis, who ran for only 48 yards. "We have to look at what we can do to take pressure off (Stewart)."

Miami's new run emphasis saw Karim Abdul-Jabbar set a regular-season club record with 33 carries for 108 yards, including a three-yard touchdown in the second quarter.

NFL all-time passing leader Dan Marino attempted just 22 passes and completed 14 for 122 yards, including an eight-yard touchdown to Lamar Thomas. Marino averaged only 147 yards in the first two games.

Among other unbeateners, Denver doubled Oakland 34-17. Green Bay edged Cincinnati 13-6. Minnesota ripped Detroit 29-6. Seattle beat Washington 24-14 and Jacksonville bounced Baltimore 24-10.

Denver's Bubby Brister relieved injured starter John Elway and threw a pair of touchdown passes and cornerback Ray Crockett returned an interception 80 yards for a touchdown. Elway aggravated his right hamstring injury in the second quarter.

"John came to me and said it was not as bad as last week and he will be OK," said Broncos coach Mike Shanahan. "I certainly hope he will be."

Seattle's Ricky Watters ran 23 times for 135 yards and a touchdown as the Seahawks rose to 3-0 for the first time since 1986. They try for a best-ever 4-0 start next week at Pittsburgh.

Green Bay's defense shut down Cincinnati at the end of each half for the victory, denying three first-half tries from the 1-yard line and forcing three incompletions from their 39 in the final seconds to end it.

"The defence played a marvelous game, and I told them so," Packers coach

Mike Holmgren said. "We were in a lot of jams and they got us of them."

Minnesota's Gary Anderson kicked five field goals to reach second place on the all-time NFL scoring list with 1,713 points — 289 fewer than George Blanda, who played as a

kicker and quarterback. Jacksonville's Mark Brunell threw for 376 yards and a pair of touchdowns and rookie Fred Taylor ran for 128 yards and caught nine passes for 85 yards.

Four clubs gathered their first victory of the season by extending the woes of a winless rival.

The New York Jets routed Indianapolis and top draft choice quarterback Peyton Manning 44-6. Arizona outlasted Philadelphia 17-3. St. Louis edged Buffalo 34-33 and Tampa Bay beat Chicago 27-15.

Washington slid to 0-3 for the first time since 1981 and Buffalo began 0-3 for the first time since 1985. Philadelphia went 0-3 for the first time since 1986.

The best finish came at Buffalo, where St. Louis quarterback Tony Banks scrambled two yards for the winning touchdown with 11 seconds remaining. One week earlier, Banks was tackled one yard shy of the end zone in a 38-31 loss to Minnesota.

In other games, Kansas City stomped San Diego 23-7 and New England topped Tennessee 27-16.

## Bordeaux steal 2-2 draw, stay top in France

PARIS (AFP) — French leaders Bordeaux dropped their first points of the season but stayed top on Sunday after stealing a 2-2 draw in front of a sell-out crowd at Marseille.

The match was watched by 56,000 fervent fans, while 45,500 saw Paris Saint Germain, last season's double cup winners, edge out Monaco 1-0.

Bordeaux, who levelled in the final minute of the game, now have 16 points from six games, two more than Lyon and four more than Marseille.

They went ahead through Kaba Diawara after 43 minutes but were immediately put under the cosh by their

hosts. Italian star Fabrizio Ravanelli levelled the match on the stroke of half-time with a stunning left-footed volley and then set up Eric Roy 10 minutes after the break.

But Diawara struck again to earn Bordeaux a point with a close-range header in the 90th minute.

Paris Saint Germain, after a poor start to the season, took the points against Monaco through Yann Lachuer's 15th minute clincher.

That left them in eighth place in the league, on 10 points.

On Saturday French champions Lens crashed to a new low by losing 3-1 at Lyon, while last

season's runner-up Metz slipped close to the bottom of the table after failing to score for the sixth game in a row.

Lens' result left them with just seven points from six games and in ninth place in the table.

Metz, meanwhile, found themselves in 16th place and two off the bottom.

Lens, who hoped their draw with Arsenal in the Champions' League in midweek was a sign of improving form, were already two down by half-time, through Swiss striker Marco Grassi and his attack partner Alain Cavaglia — who produced a fine job over the advancing 'keeper.

Wagneau Eloui gave Lens hope by pulling

one back with a quarter-of-an-hour to go but a horrible mix-up between defender Eric Sikora and goalkeeper Guillaume Warmuz allowed Cameroon World Cup star Joseph-Desire Job, who came on as a substitute, to walk the ball home into an empty net with two minutes to go.

Metz, meanwhile, completed 540 minutes of football without a goal.

Their ineptitude in front of goal was underlined when Bruno Rodriguez missed a penalty. Their only points this season have come from three draws.

## Soccer players' association probes effects of headers

LONDON (AP) — The association representing soccer players in England is doing research on whether heading the ball can cause long-term brain damage.

The Professional Footballers Association said Monday its findings would not be available for several years. Other studies have shown brain damage and other brain diseases may occur from the practice.

In announcing the research, PFA chief executive Gordon Taylor said he believed the risks were minimal.

"With scanning techniques these days we should have a clear idea," Taylor said. "By conducting these studies we are not looking to be alarmist. The benefits of playing sport, and football especially, are obviously considerably greater."

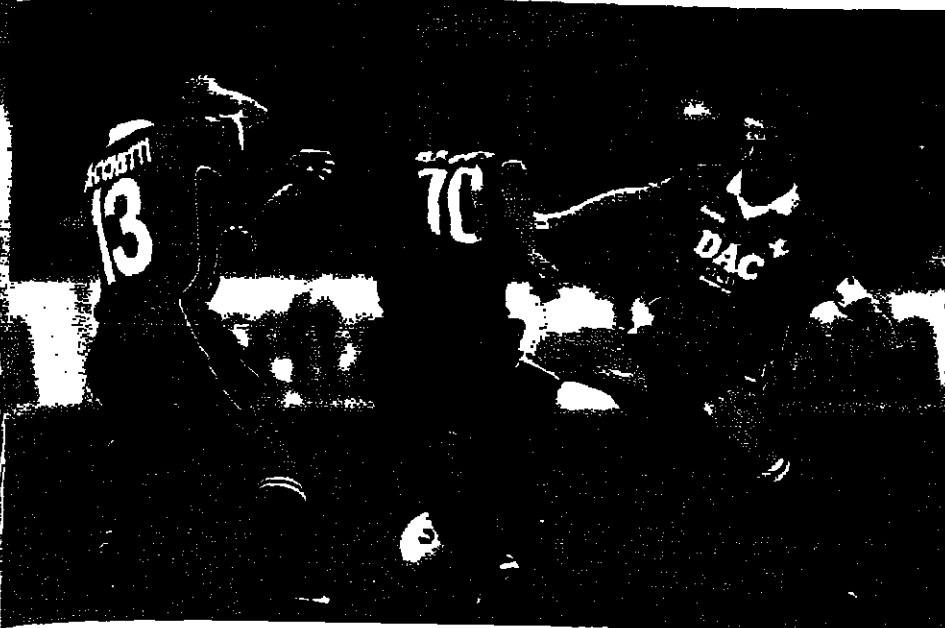
"From what I understand so far, any potential risk is only slight. We are certainly not going to ban heading and we certainly don't want people not playing the game because of this."

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| John Travolta & Olivia Newton-John .. in |             | Sophie Marceau ... in Leo Tolstoy's love story |             | Comedian Adel Imam .. in   |              | CONCORD 1' NASSER                          |              | ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria |              | ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria |              | Watch out for the new play |              |
| <b>GREASE</b>                            |             | <b>ANNA KARENINA</b>                           |             | <b>AL ZA'EEM</b>   |              | Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30      |              | <b>ARMAGEDDON</b>              |              | <b>GREAT EXPECTATIONS</b>      |              | <b>TERRORISM</b>           |              |
| Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30    |             | Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30          |             | Shows: 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30 |              | UP CLOSE & PERSONAL Shows: 3:30, 5:30 only |              | Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45 |              | Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45 |              |                            |              |

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Inter Milan striker Roberto Baggio (C) fights for the ball against Piacenza defenders Stefano Sacchetti (L) and Alessandro Mazzola during their Italian Major League at the Meazza stadium in Milan (Reuters photo)

## Ronaldo makes winning return

MILAN (AFP) — Ronaldo made a match-winning debut for Inter Milan in the Serie A here on Sunday night, driving home a penalty for a 1-0 victory over Piacenza.

Ronaldo, suspended for the season-opener against Cagliari, won himself an early birthday present and earned a respite for under-fire coach Gigi Simoni in a harsh-tackling match.

The turning point came when Inter's 19-year-old whizzkid Andrea Pirlo was tripped by defender Stefano Sacchetti. Ronaldo drove his spot-kick in the right-hand corner, sending the goalkeeper the wrong way.

"It was my first match and my first goal," said the Brazilian, who turns 22 on Tuesday. "I hope it's a good omen, because I'm looking to be the Ronaldo I was last season or even better."

Looking ahead to the expected championship duel with Juventus, he said: "We're all hungry for victory and we're a real team. We're on the right road."

Juventus chalked up a 1-0 victory over Cagliari after being rifled into an eighth-minute lead by Filippo "SuperPippo" Inzaghi.

But it was another disappointing day for Alessandro Del Piero, who hasn't scored in open play since last April despite a dozen games between club and international duty.

Coach Marcello Lippi said: "We know that we are not really sorted yet, but the important thing is to get results when the team aren't on top form."

"The team spirit, the sense of sacrifice and the will to win are all there."

The champions are one of only three clubs, with Fiorentina and AC Milan, to have won both league matches this season.

Fiorentina kept their 100 per cent record by beating Vicenza 2-1 away, with Argentinian skipper Gabriel Batistuta nodding home Moreno Torricelli's cross in the first minute.

The home side levelled when midfielder Marco Schenardi crossed and Fiorentina defender Pasquale Padalino fumbled the ball into his own net in the 68th minute.

But his team sealed all three points three minutes later when Batistuta set up Belgian international Luis Oliveira for a rasping angled shot into the far corner of the net.

AC Milan were 2-1 winners away to Salernitana, with all the goals coming late in the game.

German ace Oliver Bierhoff headed Milan into a 67th-minute lead and Brazilian substitute Leonardo deflected home a

George Weah shot for their second in the 86th.

Salernitana pulled one back two minutes later when skipper Roberto Breda cracked home a free-kick but it was all too late for the southerners.

Milan coach Zaccaroni said: "We were motivated and showed a lot of grit, although I do think we could have finished it earlier."

"We were more determined in the second half, although as I've said before, we still need that confidence which will come only with the results."

Bierhoff, the Serie A's top scorer last season with Udinese, said: "It's not the fact that I scored, it's the result that counts."

"And after winning a battle like this one, it's an important result not just for the three points but also for team morale."

Mario Amoroso was Udinese's hero in a 3-1 win at Bologna after a heart-stopping finish. The Brazilian striker headed them into a 14th minute lead and then converted a 44th minute penalty after being tripped by goalkeeper Francesco Antonioli.

Bologna had Amedeo Mangone sent off just before the break but Igor Kolyvanov pulled one back by converting a 63rd penalty — only for his Russian teammate Igor Simutenkov to miss another in the 83rd.

Two minutes later, Belgian midfielder Johan Walem volleyed in Udinese's third for the team's first win there since 1982.

Big-spending Lazio ground out their second draw, 0-0 with Bari.

Lazio's owner Sergio Cragnotti put on a brave face, saying: "We created a lot of chances and could have won 3-0 or 4-0. There are a lot of new faces in the team and a few problems are inevitable."

And he warned: "Juventus — we'll catch you."

City rivals AS Roma could do no better at Empoli after international midfielder Luigi Di Biagio missed an 85th minute penalty — just as he did in Italy's shoot-out with France in the World Cup quarter-final.

Sampdoria finished 1-1 with Perugia after they too missed a match-winning penalty.

Frenchman Pierre Leigle scored for Sampdoria, Perugia levelled in the 49th minute through Renato Olive and then watched Sampdoria striker Vincenzo Montella miss a 72nd minute spot-kick.

Parma meanwhile clocked up their second consecutive 0-0 draw at Venezia.

## Spain beat Switzerland to win Fed Cup

GENEVA (AFP) — Spain defeated Switzerland 3-2 to win the Fed Cup final here on Sunday and take the trophy for the fifth time in eight years.

The experienced pair of Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Conchita Martinez sealed victory by crushing their younger opponents Martina Hingis and Patty Schnyder 6-0, 6-2 in the decisive doubles.

Spain previously won the title in 1991, 1993, 1994 and 1995. Sanchez Vicario and Martinez have appeared in all of those triumphs.

World No. 1 Hingis, who won both her singles, and her partner were ruthlessly exploited in the final rubber, with the Spaniards concentrating on their opponents' tiredness.

Earlier, Hingis had survived a scare to beat Sanchez Vicario 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 but Martinez brought the tie level at 2-2 by beating Schnyder 6-3, 2-6, 9-7.

An exhausted Schnyder had come close to triumphing in the final set but eventually succumbed in three hours and 18 minutes.

## Florence Griffith Joyner dies of heart seizure

MISSION VIEJO, California (AP) — Florence Griffith Joyner, the triple gold medalist at the 1988 Olympics who captivated the world with her meteoric speed and flamboyant style, died Monday of an apparent heart seizure. She was 38.

Griffith Joyner was the wife of 1984 Olympic triple-jump gold medalist Al Joyner and the sister-in-law of Jackie Joyner-Kersey, the six-time Olympic medalist and world heptathlon record-holder.

Greg Foster, the three-time world champion in the 110-metre hurdles, said he had been told of the death by Joyner-Kersey, who had heard of it from her brother Al.

The sheriff's office in Orange County said a Florence Griffith Joyner, 38, had died in Mission Viejo, but could not confirm that it was the former track star.

Griffith Joyner had suffered a heart seizure two years ago on a flight to St. Louis.

Griffith Joyner still holds world records in the 100- and 200-metre dashes. She set the 100 metre mark of 10.49 seconds at the quarterfinals of the 1988 Olympic trials at Indianapolis, and since then, no one has even broken 10.60. At the Seoul Games, she won the gold medal in a wind-aided 10.54.

She then smashed the world 200 record in the Olympic final, clocking 21.34. No one else has broken 21.70.

She also won a gold medal in the 400 relay and just missed a fourth gold medal when the U.S. team finished second in



Picture dated 25 September 1988 of U.S. sprinter Florence Griffith-Joyner waving the 'Stars and Stripes' U.S. banner after winning the women's 100 metres sprint final of the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul. The American athlete, who set women's 100- and 200-metre world records in 1988, died Monday at the age of 39 due to a seizure (AFP photo)

the 1,600 relay, which Griffith Joyner anchored.

Not only did "FloJo" dazzle fans with her stunning speed, she caused a sensation by running the first two rounds in a skintight suit similar to a speedskater's togs.

She also displayed a muscular physique, which prompted talk of steroid use. Griffith Joyner insisted she never used performance enhancers and she never failed a drug test.

At the 1988 trials, where she ran the three fastest 100-metre times ever by a woman and set the American record in the 200, she also set standards in track fashion.

At the Olympics, she painted three of her fingernails red,

white and blue, and she painted a fourth gold to signify her goal.

At the 1987 World Championships in Rome, she caused a sensation by running the first two rounds in a skintight suit similar to a speedskater's togs.

But her health was a concern. In 1996, she suffered a seizure on an airplane flight from California to St. Louis. She was hospitalised for one day, and the family requested that no other details be released.

At the time, Griffith Joyner, accompanied by her husband and daughter, Mary, was en route to the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Relays for high school

athletes.

"The Olympic family is saddened and stunned by her passing," U.S. Olympic Committee President Bill Hybl said Monday. "She was a role model for girls and young women in sports and her legacy will be one that included kindness and an interest in children. She will be missed."

Griffith Joyner was voted The Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year for 1988 and also won the Sullivan Award as the nation's top amateur athlete.

After retiring from track in the wake of the Seoul Games, she served for a time as co-chairman of the President's Council on Physical Fitness.

## IOC comes out against Super League plans

BRUSSELS (AP) — The International Olympic Committee came out Monday against plans to create a European Super League grouping the richest soccer clubs, arguing it would monopolize income at the expense of smaller clubs.

An IOC delegation headed by President Juan Antonio Samaranch told European Union officials the lucrative

television deals planned under the super league would not profit soccer as a whole.

"This is why a project like the Super League would be dangerous since it would concern a select club of top teams and the money they would generate would not trickle down to the provincial clubs," said Jacques Rogge, the head of the European Olympic Committees.

"Our point is that the collective negotiations of television rights is the only way to let money filter through from the top level of sports to the grassroots," Rogge said.

The IOC called on the EU's Executive Commission to use its clout to make sure an equitable system of revenue distribution continues to exist.

The 15-nation EU showed the impact it can have on

sports when it forced the European soccer federation to apply the 1995 Bosman ruling on free agency and scrap limits on EU foreigners.

The EU Commission is investigating whether the collective bargaining of soccer federations for the television rights of all their league clubs is compatible with EU antitrust laws or whether clubs should be allowed to

negotiate these rights individually.

Again, granting such rights to individual clubs would jeopardize the current system of solidarity between rich and poor clubs, Rogge said.

"If it becomes a jungle where every club can negotiate for itself, then you won't have a redistribution effect anymore," he told The Associated Press.

### Festival of the Arabian Horse at Home

The Royal Jordanian Arabian Horse Society is pleased to announce the 10th annual "Festival of the Arabian Horse at Home" from Sept. 29 to Oct. 2. The festival features in hand and ridden classes from 9 a.m. until early evening at the Royal Stables, Al Hummar on Sept. 29, 30 and Oct. 2 with international entries and judges. On Oct. 1 the programme includes only purebred Arabian Horse racing at the Royal Race Club in Teneub.

Refreshments, snacks and amenities are available daily on site.

A judges course will be held on the two days following the show also at the Royal Stables.

For further details please contact the Royal Stables Tel.: 5342104, 5348123.

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E-mail: edts@nchd.gov.jo  
Proposals are to be submitted not later than 12:00 a.m. on October 20, 1998

The Economic Development through Technical Skills Project is Coordinated by The National Centre for Human Resources Development. Executed by The Association of Canadian Community Colleges and Funded by the Canadian International Development Agency

### Invitation For Bids Sector Educational Project — Phase (II) International Competitive Bidding (I C B) Loan No. (3864-JO) - WORLD BANK

Ministry of Education invites interested bidders to participate in Tender No. (7/4/97) R2-VICES & WHEEL BARROWS which is financed through the loan mentioned above.

Eligible bidders may obtain Tender Documents at Furniture & Equipment Division/Ministry of Education against the payment of a non-refundable fee (JD10) and presenting a valid professional licence, starting from Tuesday September 22, 98 till Closing Date November 25, 1998 11:00 a.m. (local time). Bids shall be deposited in the Bid Box at the Furniture & Equipment Division/M.O.E/or by Mail, not later than closing time.

Chairman of Special  
Tenders' Committee

### PASSPORT LOST

I, Satnam Singh, have lost my Indian passport bearing the number A1052566 in addition to other Indian documents. Would greatly appreciate anybody who finds them contact me at the following address:  
Satnam Singh, P.O. Box 184091, Amman-Jordan

### Y.W.C.A./Amman Choir Singing



The Y.W.C.A.'s 4-voice choir will be starting preparations for its Annual Christmas Concert that will be held December 7th, 8th, 9th & 10th/1998.

The programme includes contemporary pieces, traditional carols, and Arabic pieces. This year the choir will be accompanied by a children's choir as well. Rehearsals for the adult choir will be every Tuesday at the Y.W.C.A. hall, 3rd Circle, from 7:30 - 10:00 p.m.

Any experience with choral singing would be helpful.

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stopped short of a first non, (57), and defensive quarter (Reuters photo)

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289 fumbles by Blanda, who played kicker and punter.

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for 128 yards and nine passes for 154.

Four clubs gathered first victory in the by extending the winless streak.

The New York Jets Indianapolis and first choice quarterback Manning.

lasted Philadelphia St. Louis edged Buffalo 33 and Tampa Bay Chicago 27-15.

Washington should be the first time since 198 and Buffalo began the first time since 198 Philadelphia won the first time since 198.

The best finish came Buffalo, where St. Joe quarterback Tony Stewart scrambled two yards for winning touchdown with seconds remaining.

Backs tackled one yard shy of end zone in a 28-10 Minnesota.

In other games, Kansas City stomped San Diego 23-7 and New England pumpled Tennessee 27-10.

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TERRORISM



## 10 dead in new attack on Kabul as rescuers sift through the rubble U.S., Iran find common ground

KABUL (AP) — At least ten people were killed when rockets blasted houses in a northern suburb of Kabul on Monday, the second day of deadly assaults on the Afghan capital.

The rocket assault occurred as rescue workers were digging through the rubble of Sunday, ravaging several neighbourhoods and killing more than 50 people and wounding nearly 200 others.

Sirens of the International Red Cross ambulances screamed into the Khair Khana neighbourhood shortly after 3 p.m. local time Monday. The powerful rocket demolished two houses and damaged seven other homes.

At least 10 bodies were seen being taken away from the scene, not far from the site of Sunday's rocket hits, which destroyed entire streets.

"I thought I was going to die. There was a loud explosion and everything on the shelves fell off," said Aziz Ullah, a shopkeeper in the area. "Why are they doing this?" No one took responsibility for any of the attacks, but the Taliban is blaming its opponents, positioned north of the capital.

The Khair Khana suburb is on the northern edge of the city and well within range of the opposition rockets.

Opposition leaders denied firing the rockets into the city and accused the Taliban of hitting the northern suburb from their positions east and southeast of the city.

Neighbours used their hands to dig through the rubble to reach the wounded.

The Red Cross firmly condemned the rocket assaults.

Earlier Monday, a rocket landed in an open field while rescue workers dug through the rubble of Sunday's rocket attack.

Relatives of the dead wailed and beat their chests as rescue workers recovered bodies, eyewitnesses said.

"These are my friends... All I can do is cry and cry," said Mohammad Amir.

The rocket assault on Sunday was the worst since the Taliban army took control of the capital in September 1996, ousting President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his military chief Ahmed Shah Massoud.

Since the Taliban takeover Kabul has been relatively peaceful ending four years of bitter feuding between rival Islamic factions that destroyed entire neighbourhoods of Kabul.

"It's starting again. We thought that we had peace."

"Everybody was hoping for peace," said Ullah.

One of the rockets Sunday destroyed a two-storey building and badly damaged seven other buildings.

"There was a massive explosion as the rocket hit the building," said Bashir Ahmed, who lost three sons in the attack.

NEW YORK (R) — The United States and Iran, at odds for almost two decades, are finding some common ground on Afghanistan, where neither nation wants to see the Taliban, an Islamic fundamentalist movement, exercise sole control of the country.

While coming at the problem from different perspectives, Washington and Tehran have failed in their policies toward Afghanistan, U.S. officials and analysts say.

They are now concerned enough about the potential for a brewing war between Afghanistan and neighbouring Iran that they have cooperated in a U.N.-led process that holds the slim hope for a peaceful solution.

The informal group called "two plus six" — involving the United States and Russia and Afghanistan's six neighbours: Iran, Pakistan, China, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan — is to meet late on Monday afternoon on the fringes of the U.N. General Assembly session in New York.

The group has convened previously at the senior diplomat level. This time, however, foreign ministers, invited by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, will attend, marking the first time in years that a U.S. secretary of state and the Iranian foreign minister have had such direct contact.

In the midst of improving U.S.-Iranian ties — which is complicated by domestic pressures on each side — that counts for progress, U.S. officials say.

The U.N. meeting was arranged as Iran massed 200,000 troops on the Afghan border and threatened military action in retaliation for the killing of nine Iranian diplomats by Taliban forces, who now control nearly all of Afghanistan.

### The United States is sympathetic.

"We have a great understanding for the anger and the extent to which the Iranian government has condemned the killing of diplomats... The inviolability of diplomats and diplomatic residences and embassies is one of the oldest rules of a civilised society. The murder of diplomats is one of the most heinous kinds of international actions," State Department spokesman James Rubin said.

Privately, U.S. officials acknowledge the irony in such words. It was the decision of Iranian fundamentalist students to seize the American embassy in Tehran in 1979 and hold 52 diplomats hostage for 444 days that led to the rupture in U.S.-Iranian ties that exists to this day.

But U.S. officials say concern for diplomats is now a point of convergence with Iran, rather than division, and they are exploiting the point.

Iran has long been at odds with the Taliban, Sunni Muslims of Afghanistan's dominant Pashtun ethnic group. Iran, dominated by Shi'ite Muslims, for years has supplied logistical and military support to the anti-Taliban forces who have been trying to prevent the Taliban from consolidating their control.

Amnesty International and the Iranian press have accused the Taliban of massacring thousands of Shi'ite civilians when they captured the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif last month.

Ahmed received minor injuries.

Other victims were men selling fruit and sweets on the road side.

While hospital officials and the Taliban are reporting as many as 50 dead, the death toll could be higher because Afghans bury their dead immediately.

Hospitals were operating at capacity to keep up with the

The Iranian media now accuse the Taliban of widespread killing, rape and looting in the central town of Bamian, a stronghold of Shi'ite opposition forces recently captured by the Taliban.

Iranians are "confronted now with the real potential that they will have on their border a Sunni extremist base [in Afghanistan] with tremendous potential appeal to Iran's Sunni minority. This could be very unstable because the [Iranian] Sunnis don't like living in a Shi'ite regime," one U.S. official said.

"So the Iranians see themselves as having failed to keep the Taliban from winning and they are grasping around trying to figure out what to do," he said.

Largely propelled by Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, a hardliner, there is an increasing likelihood that Tehran will launch some kind of military operation against Afghanistan, this U.S. official told Reuters.

### But U.S. perspectives on an incursion vary.

Some officials insist Iran is too smart to get bogged down in Afghanistan — as the Soviet Union did from 1979 to 1989 — or to try to seize the entire country. Others see a protracted scenario, with the conflict drawing in Pakistan, a Taliban ally, and Central Asian states like Uzbekistan.

The United States has strongly urged Iran — as well as Pakistan and all other countries — to avoid military action in Afghanistan.

That is somewhat ironic since Washington last month fired missiles on what it said was the Afghan-based camps of Saudi terrorist Osama Ben Laden, the alleged mastermind of the August bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Apart from avoiding bloodshed, Washington has strategic interests in opposing an Islamic war in Afghanistan. Such a conflict could undermine moderate Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, who has been receptive to better ties with the West, and could complicate the push to develop the oil and gas resources of the Caspian Sea, U.S. officials said.

Also, the Iran-Taliban face-off is awkward for Washington because of its friendship with Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, the Taliban's allies.

Pakistan, whose prime minister meets President Bill Clinton in New York on Monday, insists it is trying to temper the Taliban but also fears that the Taliban is a "Frankenstein out of control," one U.S. official told Reuters.

Khatami, who is also in New York, was expected to appeal to the United Nations on Monday to pressure the Taliban to stop massacres of Shi'ite Muslims.

The reformist president, who does not control the armed forces, which are under Khamenei, declared: "We shall do our best not to allow any war between the two countries."

Although its goal of a pluralistic, multiethnic Afghanistan looks increasingly unlikely, the United States is still pressing for talks between Afghan factions. "We don't believe any one faction can... run the whole country," State Department spokesman Rubin has said.

Recent weeks have made significant territorial gains, pushing the opposition out of most of Bamian province in central Afghanistan.

It also has routed the opposition on several other fronts.

Last month it took control of the opposition stronghold of Mazar-e-Sharif in northern Afghanistan.

\$2 million has been launched by U.S. authorities for another suspect in the U.S. embassy bombing in Nairobi, Haroun Fazil, a native of the Comoros Islands.

Tanzania is holding five other suspects, including Thomas Lyimo, a prominent businessman and the owner of a garage where the bomb was allegedly made.

Mahmoud Salim denied he had any links with Ben Laden.

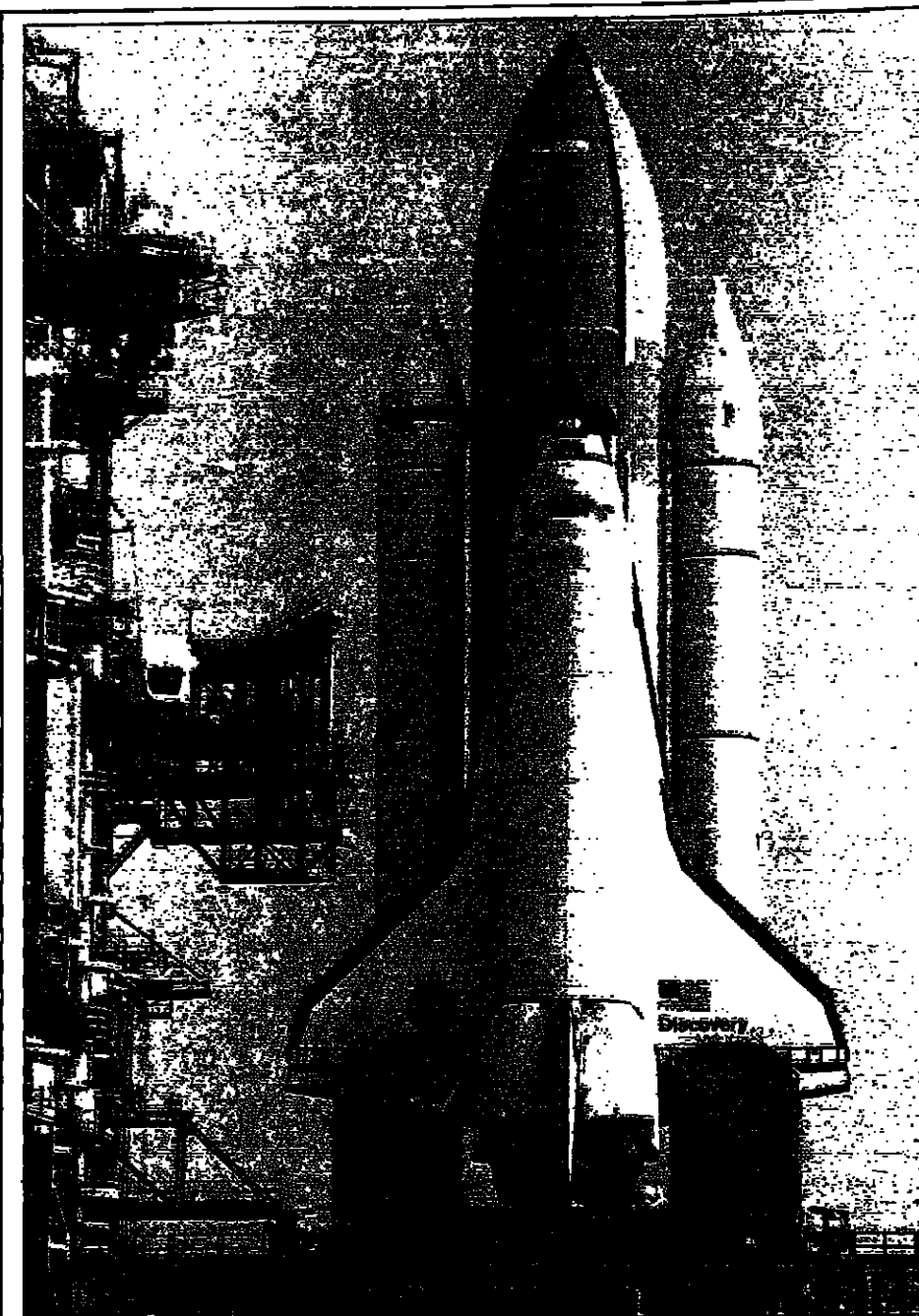
Sheikh Omar Bakri Mohammed, head of the Al Muhajirun (The Exile) movement, said Mahmoud Salim "has nothing to do with Ben Laden and the International Islamic Front."

A Bavarian interior ministry spokesman said the reasons for Mahmoud Salim's contacts with German Islamic groups, whether private or political, remained to be determined.

He said it was the surveillance of Islamic groups which drew the attention of the authorities to Mahmoud Salim's presence in Germany.

U.S. justice officials had asked German authorities, via Interpol, to arrest Mahmoud Salim, who arrived in Germany from Spain a week ago.

Bavaria has stepped up security following his arrest. The spokesman said there was no concrete indication the state would be the target of any attack but it feared a possible reprisal for the arrest.



GLENN READIES FOR SPACE AGAIN: The space shuttle Discovery rolls to pad 39B at the Kennedy Space Centre on Monday. Seven astronauts, including John Glenn, are scheduled for flight Oct. 29 on the historical eight-day mission. This mission will mark the return to space for Glenn, who was the first American to orbit the earth in 1962 (Reuters photo)

## Irked Swiss mull whether Netanyahu is still welcome

ZURICH (R) — Irked Swiss officials were still mulling on Monday whether Israel's prime minister was welcome to attend a business seminar after he congratulated the World Jewish Congress (WJC) for helping retrieve Holocaust victims' wealth.

In a letter to WJC President Edgar Bonfman that made its way into the Swiss press, Benjamin Netanyahu thanked Bonfman for his efforts to win compensation for Holocaust victims who alleged Swiss banks withheld their wealth after World War II.

This angered Swiss officials who say Netanyahu had distanced himself from Bonfman's aggressive efforts to wring compensation from Switzerland and its big commercial banks when Swiss President Flavio Cotti visited Israel in May.

Big Swiss banks agreed last month to pay \$1.25 billion to

settle the allegations that they stole wealth from victims.

The foreign ministry in Bern said it was still examining now whether Netanyahu was welcome to attend a high-level economic seminar set for late November that was designed to improve bilateral business ties.

"The question we are dealing with is the coming of the prime minister in this context. We are still evaluating the questions," ministry spokeswoman Yasmine Chaila said.

Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General Eytan Bentsur spoke by telephone with the Swiss ambassador to Israel on Friday to offer reassurances, she said.

"Now there might be more explanations to come. These are going to be evaluated and a decision will be taken later," she said, declining to say what Bern was still waiting to hear or how long it might take to

decide on the case.

A diplomatic source in Jerusalem confirmed a confidential letter was sent to Bonfman within the past month.

"This letter sparked great anger in Switzerland because Bonfman is not so popular there. They took it as an insult to the country and President Cotti," the source said.

The letter did not mention Switzerland, he said, adding that Bentsur had sought to clarify that the missive was not meant to harm Switzerland and that relations between the two countries were important to Israel and Netanyahu.

Bilateral relations, normally good, suffered this year when Switzerland arrested a man it said was a Mossad spy during a botched eavesdropping mission in Bern. Israel apologised for the incident, allowing Cotti's trip to Israel to proceed.

## 'Over 13 killed in Algeria'

ALGIERS (R) — Bomb attacks by suspected Islamists killed eight people and troops gunned down at least five Islamists in a four-day siege in a forest southwest of Algiers, local newspapers reported on Monday.

About 20 Islamists stormed a village near the capital Algiers early on Sunday and set off a bomb at the gate of a pro-government civil defence post killing five militiamen, the French daily Le Matin said.

"Shortly afterwards, troops launched a manhunt to track down the assassins who fled into the woods," it added, referring to the attack near Legata village in Bourmerdes region, 40 km east of Algiers.

Le Matin said three soldiers were killed and six others wounded on Sunday when their

military jeep ran into a bomb planted by Muslim rebels near the southwestern province of Saïda, 330 km from the Algerian capital.

The evening daily Le Soir d'Algérie, which put the number of the encircled rebels at 150, said on Sunday that the GIA chief Antar Zouabri, 28, and his top aides might be among them.

Local newspapers have erroneously reported that Zouabri had been gunned down during similar military operations over the past 14 months.

One such report said Zouabri died in a major offensive near Algiers along with up to 140 rebels.

Le Matin said the GIA was focusing its attacks in western Algeria to try to distract security forces' attention from other regions where the GIA is believed to be under attack.

rebels under siege with La Nouvelle République daily putting the figure at 400.

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Gates is only No. 5 among richest Americans of all time

NEW YORK (AP) —

Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates may be the richest American now, but a new study finds that Gates ranks only No. 5 on the list of the richest men throughout U.S. history. The survey by American Heritage, found that the great titans of American industry — John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, Cornelius Vanderbilt and John Jacob Astor — had amassed far greater wealth when compared to the size of the U.S. economy of their time. Sure, Gates' fortune of \$62 billion looks pretty good now. But while fortunes have been growing larger over time, so has the overall size of the U.S. economy. The list includes other well-known financiers and industrialists such as banker J. P. Morgan and automaker Henry Ford.

### Tourists visit baby Bill Clinton in Uganda

KAMPALA (R) — More than 50 people, 20 of them foreign tourists, have visited a six-month-old baby in eastern Uganda named after U.S. President Bill Clinton, a local paper said on Monday. The state-owned New Vision said the baby, whose full name is Bill Clinton Musa Kaligahwa, was born four days before Clinton's visit to Uganda in March.

Baby Clinton's mother Betty Namugosa, is keeping a record of all the well-wishers in a visitors book, the newspaper said. Namugosa was active in preparations for the visit of Clinton to the town of Wanyange, about 80 km east of the capital Kampala, where the president and his wife Hillary visited a women's self-help project.

Madonna is trying to reserve a place for her two-year-old daughter Lourdes at one of England's most traditional and exclusive girls' boarding schools, Cheltenham Ladies College, the British weekly The Express on Sunday reported. The wild woman of pop has put her daughter's name down on a lengthy waiting list for a place at the \$21,600-a-year school, which is renowned for its strict discipline, the paper said.

The paper reported that Madonna was looking for a home in London and wished to put her controversial past behind her and become an English lady. Headmistress Vicky Tuck said: "There is no reason why Lourdes should have any trouble fitting in. The fact that we are a boarding school could be particularly appropriate as I am sure Madonna must have a very hectic lifestyle."

### Jagger takes Turkish holiday as world tour ends

ISTANBUL (AFP) —

Rolling Stones singer Mick Jagger is unwinding on a family holiday in Turkey after playing in Istanbul Saturday for the last of the band's 107 concerts over the past 12 months. The veteran rocker started his break by spending Sunday night with wife Jerry Hall and one of their daughters at the Bodrum home of Ahmet Ertegun, the Turkish founder of the record label Atlantic, the Anatolia news agency reported. The Jagger family boarded a luxury yacht Monday to sail off on the Aegean Sea to an unknown location. Jagger, 55, has asked the Turkish paparazzi photographers who have shadowed his every move on the Stones' first-ever concert in Turkey to let him and his family enjoy a holiday in peace.

## Egyptian court orders woman scientist to have a baby

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian court has ordered a woman writing her doctorate in atomic energy to abandon her studies and fulfill her husband's desire to have a baby, the Al-Ahram newspaper reported Monday.

The husband had filed a suit against his wife in a family court in the city of Alexandria claiming that she had left him after five years of marriage to conduct research at a university laboratory. He said they had initially agreed not to

have children but he had since changed his mind.

The wife said she had told her husband she could not become pregnant for the time being because she was exposed to potentially hazardous materials as part of her studies of atomic energy.

The court ordered the woman to "obey her husband" in line with Islamic tradition. "The woman must give priority to her family," the court said.

Israeli soldier

Two Israeli soldiers were injured in the southern Lebanon. The security forces were called in to deal with the situation. The soldiers were injured in an attack on a military base. The attack was carried out by Hezbollah. The soldiers were injured in the attack. The attack was carried out by Hezbollah. The soldiers were injured in the attack. The attack was carried out by Hezbollah.

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Deputy

Abdullah Abu Ghazal

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